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ARGENTINA'S ALFONSIN ADDRESSES OAS SESSION

PY210107 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1748 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Washington, 20 Mar (TELAM) -- The Argentine president has delivered a speech before the OAS calling on the entire region to become aware of the need to unite both within the framework of the international negotiations on the foreign debt and world trade as well as at the level of economic integration. The following is the text of President Alfonsin's speech:

I am thankful for the honor of being received in this protocol session of the Permament Council of our regional organization. The OAS is the principal organization for inter-American dialogue, because it was created precisely as a forum for understanding each other, where we can coordinate our efforts in support of the ideals of freedom, peace, social justice, progress, and the full enforcement of the state of law for our people.

The ideals are lasting, but the ways to achieve them and the appropriate mechanisms for their implementation should be studied to adjust them, if necessary, to the circumstances and requirements of the present times. It is necessary that our decision to strengthen the OAS be accompanied every day with concrete achievements in order that it become an effective instrument to achieve the aspirations of its charter.

Mr Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares, you have Argentina's support to expedite and improve the work of this organization. Deputy Secretary General Val McComie also has our support.

Mr President, our country's participation among the Latin American nations is historic, but it has gained new and extraordinary vigor with the reestablishment of democracy as a political system for a way of life and for government.

We should concentrate our actions on strengthening representative democracy, which was so difficult for us to recover. The exercise of democracy ensures respect for human rights. Democracy is the basis of authentic and permanent security.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a testimony of the recognition of the Argentine Government and people of the valuable and perseverant work of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission. Argentina has ratified the San Jose pact, thus expressing its juridical and moral commitment to the full enforcement of human rights inside and outside its borders.

Consequent with democratic ideals, we must be able at the international level to resolve the difference between our countries, to work for a stable peace and justice in the region within the strict respect for the principles of juridical equality among states and of nonintervention, and to overcome our border problems by resorting to the peaceful means for resolving conflicts. Chile and Argentina have followed this path, and I am sure that we share with all of you the joy of having put an end to a 100-year-old conflict.

Gentlemen, we want to reiterate here at the OAS that while this democratic revival fills us with joy and hope we are also confronting an economic threat that is jeopardizing democracy in the continent. The majority of our countries are currently bearing the heavy burden of foreign debt, which is depressing our economies and punishing our people.

Until a few years ago the dependency and the structural deficiencies of our economies forced us to resort to foreign indebtedness to change the productive system and to give impulse to the progress of our societies.

Despite the injustice and harm caused by our indebtedness, we obviously obtained some positive results in return. Hospitals, factories, highways, and schools were built. But recently, for reasons of which all of you are aware, the distortion of the international financial system has caused our countries' foreign debt to rise sharply, leaving us without any tangible positive results and favoring all sorts of speculation.

Now there are those who expect that the burden of our foreign debts should be shouldered by those who have less and who have received nothing. If this were so, if we agreed to this, the democracy that we wish for the entire continent would have little chance of surviving, because we would be promoting political disorder and violence. All this, in addition to the economic disasters, may have unpredictable consequences of such magnitude that the situation may pose a threat to world peace.

We have once again been surprised by the developed democratic countries' inadequate response to these prospects and threats. We have been surprised at their failure to properly perceive the magnitude of the political crises that may develop and the tragic consequences that they may bring to this continent and to the rest of the world.

The peripheral countries, the countries that have been sidelined, the countries that have only been allowed to play a passive role in history, will have a say in the decisions that affect them only if they jointly defend their rights and interests. This is why it is necessary for our Latin American and Caribbean nations to strengthen their ties, not only for establishing a strategy through which we may participate in the making of decisions affecting us but also for boosting our own exchange, thus reducing our dependence to the extent possible

The region, as a whole, must become aware of the need to unite, both in negotiating the foreign debt and world trade and in achieving economic integration. Regional cooperation should not be limited to physical or economic integration. It should be aimed at attaining more ambitious political goals. The region's solidarity with the Argentine cause for the Malvinas Islands was an example of this and revealed to the world the existence of Latin American continental patriotism.

I once again reiterate Argentina's most resolute will to find a negotiated solution to this issue. However, we have collided with the repeated British denials. The postponement of the settlement of this controversy, and the creation of the so-called Malvinas fortress, have created a hot spot in the South Atlantic, with the risk that our own territory and the region itself may become involved in strategic schemes which do not concern us at all. Time will not weaken our demand for Argentina's sovereign rights, just as it will not change my government's decision to resolve the sovereignty issue through a sincere and comprehensive dialogue with Great Britain.

But our struggle for peace should not be limited to regional actions. Our call for peace must be heard as it was heard in New Delhi where, together with Mexico and other nations, we asked that the essential demand of the right to live be respected as opposed to the alternative of nuclear holocaust.

Regarding our continent, the Central American crisis has forced us to face an imminent challenge, so we once more want to reiterate our full support of the Contadora Group as a proper mechanism to ensure peace in the area.

Mr President, two different histories can be perceived in an impartial study of our Latin American and Caribbean history: a history of wills and a history of facts. We have spoken of the will to cooperate and integrate until we are tired of it, just as we have always invoked our need to unite. These sincere words are not in keeping with a reality, which can be summarized in a few phrases: Integration is not progressing, cooperation is only sporadic, and we are only united by chance.

Without fail, we must find a way to defend our interests jointly. I cannot imagine any other way than acting jointly, because we will not become independent countries in practice if we do not act together to respond to the challenge of nations that know how to work jointly and in solidarity.

Last year at the Cartagena meeting held in Mar del Plata, I said that we have lost an overwhelming number of opportunities because of our lack of unity in Latin America. We all know abut the exchanges we could have made but which we did not carry out, and about the cooperation we could have developed but which remained incipient. We were aware of it then and we are aware of it now, but we often think that this task will be far too big and the obstacles too complex, and we feel overwhelmed and even skeptical. Let us recognize what we have achieved and the doubts we naturally have regarding our possibilities to change this state of affairs.

I believe that we should adopt mechanisms that take our differences into consideration. We should not just sit and wait for the proper conditions of homogeneity to occur, but we must learn to act in conjunction with our differences. Above all, this will require our political will, which depends on us and which we should exercise. Our success or failure will not depend on others, but on our conviction and courage in defending ourselves and forcing others to accept the meaning of a value that nowadays no one can ignore: the right of each country to peacefully attain its welfare.

Mr President, a century and a half ago our nations united to fight for the freedom of the continent by means of liberating armies. The time has come to repeat that heroic deed, but we will not achieve it by using airplanes, tanks, or nuclear weapons, but by developing and sharing our human and natural resources, our science, and our technology. Only by achieving this will we be on our way to a common destiny.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON BRASILIA CONTADORA MEETING

PA201730 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 20 Mar 85 pp D 14, D 12

[Press communique released by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] Taking advantage of their presence at the inauguration of the new Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, and Panama and the interior minister of Venezuela, the representatives of the member countries of the Contadora Group, met informally in Brasilia on 15 March 1985 with the foreign ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, as well as with the deputy foreign minister of Guatemala. The meeting's objective was to jointly define the bases, commitments, and measues to be taken to facilitate the continuity of the diplomatic process leading to detente and the establishment of bases for a firm and lasting peace in Central America.

The Central American foreign ministers reiterated the conviction of their governments that the crisis afflicting the region will be resolved only through political negotiation and that it is imperative to achieve the stability and peaceful coexistence to which the Central American nations aspire. They also stated their conviction that the negotiating framework promoted by the Contadora Group, which is the expression of Latin American aspirations and has received the firm support of the international community, constitutes the appropriate forum to seek genuine and lasting solutions to the conflict currently afflicting the Central American region. The ministers categorically reaffirmed their political will to continue making genuine efforts to promote this Latin American diplomatic project. In this regard, the ministers voiced their determination to achieve just and honorable agreements in the short-run, leading to the culmination of negotiations to which they are committed today.

All participants at the meeting ratified their agreement with the Document of Objectives, which was approved in September 1983, and with the Rules of Implementation of those objectives, which were approved in January 1984.

Throughout the meeting the participants acknowledged that although serious threats to peace in the region still remain, appropriate conditions for dialogue and to reach an agreement have been reestablished. In particular, they noted that the determination of the Central American governments themselves, as well as the permanent efforts of the Contadora Group, have contributed to removing the obstacles that temporarily prevented progress in the diplomatic process. In this regard, the participants reported some recent actions by the Contadora Group aimed at creating a climate of confidence and detente. They also presented specific proposals to define matters still under consideration. The Central American government representatives asked the Contadora Group to promote, as soon as possible, the resumption of negotiations to bring about the prompt signing of the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America.

At the end of this fruitful meeting, and by the express request of the five Central American governments, the Contadora Group foreign ministers decided to convoke a meeting of fully empowered high-level representatives. At that meeting, to be held on 11 and 12 April 1985 in Panama City, the participants should define the implementation and follow-up mechanisms of substantive rules considered in the document, among other things. In particular, they will deal with rules concerning verification and control of security matters. The foreign ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras presented a joint proposal calling for the discussion of those topics. This new phase of fine-tuning agreements already reached will make progress toward the signing of a document for peace and cooperation in Central America.

The Contadora Group foreign ministers elaborated a number of facts and details to reconcile differing criteria that still exist regarding certain topics in the document, particularly those related to verification and control. The Contadora Group agreed to send the corresponding revised versions to the Central American foreign ministers.

In addition, the participants agreed to establish an agenda leading as soon as possible to an intensification of negotiations and finalization of a multilateral general treaty to be signed immediately by the governments in the region.

For their party, the Contadora Group foreign ministers reiterated their unyielding determination to make every effort to achieve the objectives that have inspired the Group's efforts since January 1983. As the spirit of negotiation that should prevail for the conclusion of a Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America has been renewed, they pointed out that such a judicial instrument must acknowledge the legitimate interests of all Central American states and guarantee law. In addition, they also said that besides the political determination of the Central American governments, the unequivocal commitment and the constructive participation of countries with ties or interests in the area are essential to the achievement of peace and stability in the region.

Finally, the participants extended a cordial welcome to Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi and thanked the Brazilian Government and people for their hospitality. They also expressed their hope for the rapid recovery of President Tancredo de Almeida Neves.

SOURROUILLE OUTLINES OBJECTIVES OF U.S. VISIT

PY201335 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1206 GMT 19 Mar 85

[By NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS special correspondent]

[Excerpts] Washington, 19 Mar (NA) -- Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille has stated here that the indexes measuring inflation will probably record a "slight increase" in March as compared to February. He added that the "interesting fact" is that during the past month "a number of measures were adopted which will allow us to control price increases in the future."

Sourrouille also stated that "the possibility of reaching economic agreements with the North Americans is very unlikely" because their ideas are "too liberal." He stated that the objective of the official delegation to the United States is "to strengthen political relations and to give greater credibility to economic relations." Moreover, the minister stated that the "delegation will seek to mobilize resources of the U.S. business sector and to "dispel concerns' with the new price policy and the establishment of a realistic exchange system."

Sourrouille also stated that in the official contacts with the U.S. Administration, the delegation had pointed out "the damage caused by U.S. protectionist policies imposed on products imported from Argentina and other nations." The minister linked this situation with the Argentine foreign debt, stressing the fact that "it will be very difficult to find flexible formulas" should the United States "insist on handling the issue through the debtor countries alone." He added that the protectionist policy imposed by the powerful countries restrains the export possibilities of debtor countries and, consequently, their possibilities of paying their debts.

Sourrouille explained that "the Argentine Government feels that there is no need for substantial changes in the terms agreed upon for the renegotiation of the debt," although "there are some pending discussions with the IMF regarding the fulfillment of the goals outlined for the period December to March." The minister stated that "the inflation recorded in our country since the agreement with the IMF has surpassed the terms of that agreement." Sourrouille noted, however, that there is a complaint by the IMF "exclusively referring to the problem of December."

He stated, however, that "the guidelines on the mechanisms related to the economic policy have all been fulfilled," although "there is a discussion still pending on the problem of the quasi-fiscal deficit being handled by the Central Bank." He said that Argentina "is effectively fulfilling its foreign obligations, although it is having some difficulties with its internal debts." He then added that what must be determined is "to what extent can the disagreements on internal guidelines affect the contribution Argentina is making for the equilibrium of international finances."

Referring again to the Argentine delegation, Sourrouille stated that he hopes to "strengthen the credibility of the economic policy" of the government, and "of the future of the nation for investors who are willing to run risks."

"Basically, the prevailing idea is to work with medium-term strategies" because "with this line of action we are achieving important objectives which will serve to stimulate the U.S. private sector," Sourrouille stated. Sourrouille also said that the other proposal that the Argentine Government will make is that "for the common benefit of debtors and creditors any increase in protectionism must be avoided."

He said that protectionism "is an attack" on the principle that "the debt is paid through an improvement in the balance of trade between several countries." The minister added that "any increase in protectionism in the creditor countries forces the debtor countries into the situation of resolving these issues exclusively through the decrease of their imports, which are at the same time the market for producers of the powerful countries."

Sourrouille also said that it is appropriate to insist on the position of the Cartagena consensus, which demands a political solution to the debt problem "because it reflects the essence of a better world."

"In our opinion, an overall review of the debt will result in greater collective well-being and not in a situation marked by constraint, such as the one debtors and creditors are facing today."

Evaluates Talks

PY210241 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] One of the members of President Alfonsin's delegation to the United States is Economy Minister Juan Vital Sourrouille, who is handling matters specifically related to his ministry. Argentine television asked the minister to evaluate the economic aspect of the visit. This was his answer:

[Begin recording] [Sourrouille] The evaluation of the economic discussions held so far during this tour is in our judgment positive. Everyone knows the problems our country is experiencing. We came here basically seeking two objectives: The first is to go ahead with our program for dealing with the foreign debt, and the second is to try to get U.S. businessmen interested in investing in Argentina. We have held very interesting and reasonable talks on both aspects. Of course, results will not be seen immediately, these things take time.

With regard to the problem of the foreign debt and our international financial relations, we have held meetings with people at the U.S. Treasury, the IMF, and the World Bank. During these meetings we encountered a true understanding of our problems. As you know, our country is operating under terms of an agreement with the IMF that established an implicit inflation rate that in practice, especially in the first part of this year, was surpassed. Therefore, we now have to find new bases for the discussion of the program which links us with the IMF in 1985. This issue, which was well clarified before we came here, will be discussed from the technical point of view in Buenos Aires next week. However, we took this opportunity to make some progress in the discussions with the IMF to set the conditions on which the program can be developed.

[Reporter] Will those conditions imply greater flexibility, greater political understanding, which is basically the message President Alfonsin has been trying to convey here in the United States?

[Sourrouille] Yes, as you know the main objective of this trip is to establish a more firm, trustworthy, and credible political relationship between our countries, and certainly the progress made in this field has been so remarkable that there are now greater possibilities for negotiation of the Argentine financial problem. [end recording]

PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN ON REAGAN-ALFONSIN MEETING

PY201525 Buenos Aires TELAM Spanish 1116 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Washington, 20 Mar (TELAM) -- During their meeting yesterday, Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and U.S. President Ronald Reagan discussed "all the issues mentioned by the two presidents in their previous speeches," including the nonintervention-tionist stance of the Buenos Aires government vis-a-vis Central America, presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez confirmed at the conclusion of the meeting.

Thus, Lopez contradicted the report made by the assistant secretary for inter-American Affairs, Langhorne Motley, who acted as Reagan's spokesman replacing the incumbent Larry Speakes, who had said that Alfonsin did not mention the issue of nonintervention in his talk with the chief of the White House.

The spokesman specifically stated that both in the Alfonsin-Reagan meeting and in the meeting that the Argentine president held later with Secretary of State George Shultz major statements on the Central American situation were made. Alfonsin talked on the principle of nonintervention and self-determination of peoples and mentioned the Contadora Group as the authoritative means to achieving the pacification of the region on the basis of democratization and the exclusion of any intervention by extracontinental powers.

The presidential spokesman stated that another matter discussed was the Argentine view on political developments in Latin America, at which time the institutional situation in Chile, one of the few countries in the region that has not yet returned to a constitutional system, was mentioned.

Concerning the Malvinas Islands, Alfonsin reiterated the diplomatic approach of the Argentine Government to find a peaceful solution to the problem of sovereignty, and emphasized the British intransigence on starting talks in this connection. Lopez stated that at no time were the good offices of the United States requested to mediate before Great Britain.

The problem of agricultural and trade protectionism on the part of the United States to the detriment of the southern [as received] countries was also discussed.

PERONISTS NAME SUSPECTS IN PLAN TO KILL IGLESIAS

PY201411 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0042 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (TELAM) -- Today a group of Peronists deputies revealed to Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli the details of a plan to kill Buenos Aires Justicialist leader Herminio Iglesias. The journalist accredited to Government House were informed about this by legislator Norberto Imbelloni, who formed part of the Justicialist delegation that met with the minister. The other members of the delegation were Deputy Luis Sobrino Aranda, Carlos Ferre, Raul Carrillo, Esperanza Reguera, and Pablo Allende, Justicialist Party attorney. Imbelloni, who did not reveal details of the alleged plan, said that they had handed the minister a list of names of six suspects, among which are the names of members of the state intelligence service. Deputy Imbelloni said that Troccoli had voiced his great concern and decided to offer a permanent guard to Iglesias.

DOMESTIC, INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION RESTORED

PY191715 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1645 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Excerpt] La Paz, 19 Mar (EFE) -- National and international telex and telephone services were restored today in Bolivia as a result of a decision made by the workers union of the National Telecommunications Enterprise (ENTEL) to end a strike which has lasted more than 2 weeks. The strike was lifted after long meetings between government and union representatives. The government has complained about the harm caused by the ENTEL workers strike to the international press, foreign embassies, and to other foreign institutions.

GOVERNMENT UNABLE TO PAY EMPLOYEES' WAGES

PY201924 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Report from Government House by an unidentified reporter]

[Excerpts] During a press conference he gave a few minutes ago at Government House, Finance Minister Francisco Belmonte announced that the Bolivian Government is unable to pay the public servants' salaries in view of the great losses caused by the strike being held by this sector.

[Begin recording -- broadcast in progress] ...The payment of salaries and wages [words indistinct] the payment on the government current expenditures. We have estimated that the 13 days of strike are equivalent to a $4,601,871 loss, that is, 207.129 billion Bolivian pesos. If we take this figure into account, we will obviously conclude, and this will also be the public servants' conclusion, that the amount corresponding to their salaries for March has not been fully covered. We definitely do not have the resources to pay salaries and wages. This is another factor that has pushed inflation even higher. [end recording]

COB STRIKE SEEN ENTERING CRITICAL STAGE

PY200316 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0241 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] La Paz, 19 Mar (TELAM) -- By continuously detonating dynamite, several thousand miners have begun to radicalize their movement in protest against the economic policy of President Hernan Siles Zuazo. The miners today blocked the main streets and avenues of this capital from 1000 to 1800. Thus, the indefinite strike the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] called 12 days ago has entered its most critical stage. Housewives tonight joined the miners in an empty-pot march. The situation has been further aggravated by leaders of the housewives who have decided to go on an indefinite hunger strike beginning at midnight tonight.

In a national meeting, labor leaders have decided to stage new street demonstrations, block streets and highways, and hold workers meetings. These new actions might turn the strike into a political instrument that may end with the seizure of power, according to speculation among the labor leaders who belong to the extreme left. Such actions are criticized by the old leftist leaders of the Communist Party and of other related groups.

Lechin, the COB's principal leader, has said that "there is no other way to obtain power other than through revolution...armed struggle...and turning Congress into the sounding board of the popular sectors."

Many foreign press and diplomatic observers agree that the situation has become unmanageable for the labor leaders themselves, including Lechin.

Extreme leftist parties participated in a meeting of labor leaders that lasted until midnight last night and there was talk of creating an alternative for the people in order to oppose the alternatives of the oligarchy and of imperialism to achieve the tactical and strategic objectives. These objectives are based on the 17-point document that has been the cause of the workers mobilization. The workers demands include: an adjustable minimum wage, price controls, the permanent supply of food, and the nationalization of the private mining sector (which has 25 percent of the mining sector in its hands), and the banking sector and financial institutions.

Lechin on Not Confronting Military

PY202016 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1900 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Juan Lechin Oquendo, the main leader of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB], has instructed the workers not to confront the Armed Forces in the face of the government's latest provocative decision. He has also said that the workers will hold a national meeting to adopt new measures regarding the indefinite general strike.

[Begin Lechin recording] In the meeting we held with our colleagues the mineworkers union leaders until 0400 this morning, we decided not to reply to the government's provocations. We certainly cannot confront the government, because it is very well armed and we are not. When one does not carry weapons, one cannot and should not respond to any provocation. So this is what we have recommended not only to the mineworkers but to all union leaders, and they are already following this advice. This is the recommendation we have made to the workers, our humble people, whose low income is not even enough to buy three staples. [end recording]

Those were comments by Lechin, who then added that the Bolivian workers are continuing their strike and their demands, that the government comply with the 17 points contained in the COB document. We reiterate that the COB will hold a national meeting this afternoon. It is expected that tonight it will issue a document explaining its position regarding the latest events of the past few hours.

COB Scores Government Actions

PY201830 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 85

["Text" of COB communique issued on 20 March in La Paz]

[Text] First. Beginning early this morning, the Bolivian people witnessed the occupation of La Paz by Army troops, the deployment of regiments along the La Paz-Oruro Highway for the purpose of preventing the mobilization of workers, and the overflying of the city by Air Force planes and helicopters to frighten people.

Second. The government decision to resort to the Armed Forces in response to the Bolivian workers strike has confirmed its inability to solve problems with reasonable measures accepted by the people.

The mineworkers went to Government House distressed by the permanent food shortage in their supply stores. The mineworkers and the people have waited for more than 2 years for the government to assume its responsibility and guarantee a minimum level of supplies so the people would not starve. But the government has done nothing to solve this situation. On the contrary, it has fomented speculation and protected smugglers.

Third. The COB Executive Board and the labor delegates who went to Government House cannot accept the basis upon which the government wants to solve the conflict.

As the public is aware, it was proposed that we agreed to a 70-percent salary hike. Meanwhile, the government also announced basic commodity price hikes. To agree to this proposal would have been to surrender and accept a painful situation.

The government's unacceptable proposals have eliminated the possibility of reaching a favorable agreement.

Fourth. In view of this situation, the Executive Board hereby asks all Bolivian workers not to respond to the provocation in order to avoid useless and costly confrontations, because our enemies are waiting for us, and this is part of their sinister plan to destroy the labor movement.

We shall firmly stand in defense of the interests of workers and of the nation.

Fifth. The COB hereby summons an emergency meeting at the national level today at 1500 to analyze the situation and adopt the proper measures in defense of the workers and of the people.

Sixth. The government has cut the electric power supply to Radio Continental in an attempt to prevent or discontinue the operation of the miners' radio station network and to block the flow of information to Bolivian workers.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OFFERS TO MEDIATE CONFLICT

PY202057 Paris AFP in Spanish 2013 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] La Paz, 20 Mar (AFP) — It has been reported in La Paz today that the Bolivian Catholic Church has offered to mediate between the government and the unions in order to find a solution to the general and indefinite strike ordered by the COB.

The Episcopal Commission announced this decision in view of the frictions taking place in the streets of this city between the miners, who are protesting the government's economic policies, and the police and Army forces, who are guarding strategic points of La Paz.

The dialogue between the COB and the government was interrupted on 17 March when the executive branch rejected the COB demands for an adjustable minimum salary, which is the most controversial point of its 17 demands.

The government has already given its position, and this will not change, said President Hernan Siles Zuazo after recalling that the union leaders did not accept his offer for cogovernment.

The COB has called for a special national meeting in the next few hours to define its position in view of the new situation and to study new ways to face the conflict.

COB Sets Conditions

PY210014 Paris AFP in Spanish 2348 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] La Paz, 20 Mar (AFP) -- It was stated here today that the COB will only accept the church's mediation to resume the dialogue if there is an official commitment to lift the military occupation of this capital.

This is the dominant position at the national meeting of leaders that is currently going on, but no final position has yet been adopted.

Another labor sector believes that the leaders should first declare a hunger strike so that they enter the dialogue with a pressure tactic.

Meanwhile, it has been announced that the union delegates will be received at the Foreign Ministry by Foreign Minister Edgar Camacho Omiste and Planning Minister Freddy Justiniano.

It has been learned that President Hernan Siles Zuazo will not participate in the first meeting, which will be presided over by La Paz Archbishop Msgr Jorge Manrique, that is if the meeting is held within the next few hours.

Government Sets Conditions

PY210424 Paris AFP in Spanish 0357 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] La Paz, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Bolivian Foreign Minister Edgar Camacho Omiste today said that the workers must give a written answer to the government's economic proposals to hold a dialogue to overcome the obstacles that emerged during the previous negotiations. The foreign minister pointed out that the government will begin negotiations with the union leaders when the appropriate conditions exist and when the economic and not the political nature of the demands are defined.

Referring to reports that the Catholic Church is sponsoring a mediation between the COB and the government, the official government spokesman said that several ministers met with some bishops to get familiar with this offer, but that no talks aimed at a rapprochement have been held.

The minister added that the executive branch is seeking the quickest solution to the conflict affecting the country, and that President Hernan Siles Zuazo and his cabinet will be informed about the Catholic Church proposals in the next few hours.

He said that a false report was made about an alleged meeting between COB leaders and ministers at the Foreign Ministry, because the meeting has not yet been officially scheduled.

Meeting Set To Start

PY202239 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 2225 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Live report from Government House]

[Text] Representatives of the COB, the national government, and the Bolivian Episcopal Conference are going to meet here at the Government House in a few minutes in an effort to find a solution to the conflict affecting the country.

A government spokesman just reported that representatives of the Catholic Church and the COB will arrive here at Government House in a few minutes. There is expectation about the results of this high-level meeting aimed at finding a solution to the conflict affecting the country. President Siles, who arrived at Government House at approximately 1700 local time, has summoned his cabinet ministers to begin the dialogue with the COB and the Bolivian Catholic Church.

COB SAYS MILITARY TAKES OVER STATE TV

PY202344 Paris AFP in Spanish 2321 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] La Paz, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Military forces have occupied the state television channel to broadcast programs supporting the government. This charge was made during a meeting that has been sponsored by the COB in which leaders from throughout the country are participating. When the COB started its indefinite general strike 13 days ago it ordered the state television channel to halt its programs to prevent the government from manipulating information on the strike through that channel.

Emergency Broadcasting Begun

PY210040 Paris AFP in Spanish 0022 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] La Paz, 20 Mar (AFP) -- The state television here today started broadcasting emergency programming with informal programs. This programming began after members of the police force occupied the state channel and started it up with personnel that the democratic government has confidence in.

During the past 2 weeks the station's personnel have been carrying out an indefinite general strike that was ordered by the COB, which is why it has not been broadcasting.

RADIO SAYS ARMED FORCES TO STAY IN LA PAZ

PY210136 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] In order to obtain a firsthand view of the real situation in La Paz, Radio Panamericana today toured the city, both the neighborhoods and the places of access to the city. During the tour we detected the presence of the Army [words indistinct] strengthened by policemen. [passage indistinct]

It has been reported that there were some clashes this morning in a plant between petroleum workers and Bolivian Air Force troops. Radio Panamericana, however, can confirm that no confrontation occurred between the two groups, but that [passage indistinct].

The Armed Forces will remain in the city until the problem posed by the COB is solved.

PRESIDENT NEVES UNDERGOES SECOND OPERATION

Operation Termed Successful

PY210006 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2340 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Brasilia -- The medical report issued at 1955 at the Brasilia Military Hospital said that President Tancredo Neves was being operated on by a medical team made up of surgeons Pinheiro Roca, (Walter Pinot), and Joao Batista Rezende.

Reported as a successful operation aimed at eliminating an intestinal obstruction, it nonetheless awakened doubts among the journalists waiting at the military hospital. Presidential spokesman Antonio Brito read the report, which gave rise to doubts as to whether the operation he was referring to as being in its final stage was the second or whether it was a third operation. A new medical report will be released (?soon), and it may clear up the doubts. Antonio Brito has just reported that the operation on President Tancredo Neves ended a few minutes ago and that it was very successful. A new medical report will be issued later tonight.

Brasilia Military Hospital Administrative Vice Director Antonio Carlos has said that the operation on Tancredo Neves removed an obstacle that hindered intestinal functions. The operation ended close to 2000 and was very successful, he said.

Further Report

PY210455 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0340 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Today's newspapers will report the anxious expectations over the uncertainty of President Tancredo Neves' actual condition.

There is intense activity at the Brasilia Military Hospital, where there is an expectant atmosphere. However, the most recent news on Tancredo Neves' condition is optimistic. After a moment of great tension, presidential spokesman Antonio Brito supplied further information on the second operation performed on the president.

[Begin Carlos Rodrigues report from Brasilia Military Hospital] We are at the Brasilia Military Hospital, where President Tancredo Neves is hospitalized. We expect journalist Antonio Brito to tell us about the atmosphere prevailing among the president's relatives and among the doctors who are treating the president.

[Brito] I have just left the presidential suite, which is occupied by the president's relatives. The prevailing atmosphere was actually marked by happiness, joy, and, let us admit it, relief. And I am sure that the entire country now shares this feeling of relief.

[Rodrigues] What are the doctors' expectations for the next few hours?

[Brito] The expectations are that the president [words indistinct] under the general anesthesia, and they will remain there evaluating his condition and attending him. I also found the doctors very calm and relieved with the decision [word indistinct] the operation.

[Rodrigues] Antonio Brito is now announcing the technical name of the operation: it is a lysis of an adherence of an abdominal sigmoid flexure [lise de una aderencia de uma laca abdominal]. The incision from the first operation was reopened and extended by 5 cm.

The doctors then examined the president's intestines and found a wavy sigmoid flexure [alca ondulada] that was not allowing the intestine to function properly.

Afterward, a [word indistinct] was performed, consisting of a small cut on the intestine. The cut will be used to place a probe that will serve to drain secretions.

Fellow reporter Milton Flora has more information.

[Flora] We can report that President Tancredo Neves has already awaken. The effects of the general anesthesia are fading and the team of doctors is performing a more detailed examination so that spokesman Antonio Brito can report on the president's condition after his second operation.

Despite the fact that it is very late, there is intense activity at the military hospital, although without the tumultuousness of recent days.

To Assume Office in 2 Weeks

NC210853 Paris AFP in English 0848 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Brasilia, March 21 (AFP) -- Seventy-five year-old Brazilian President Tancredo Neves has come through his second operation in five days "exceptionally well" and should be able to take office very shortly, one of his three surgeons said here today.

The condition of Mr Neves has sparked concern over when he will be able to be sworn in and just how ill he is. He was operated on yesterday for an obstruction in the small intestine.

Only hours before surgeon Rezende Alves spoke to newsmen, other doctors, and even presidential aides, could not see Mr Neves back at his desk in less than two weeks. Medical bulletins released since Tuesday by the presidential spokesman Antonio Brito have been both worrying and reassuring without explaining exactly what was wrong with the patient.

Yesterday's medical bulletin said that the second operation, lasting four hours, was undertaken for an obstruction which was practically paralysing the intestinal functions.

The first operation for diverticulitis, also an intestinal condition, was last Thursday, only hours before Mr Neves was to have been inaugurated as Brazil's first civilian president after more than two decades of military rule. Vice President Jose Sarney is Brazil's interim president.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA SEES U.S. AS OBSTACLE TO OAS

PA201814 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Rio de Janeiro -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has warned that the U.S. presence in the OAS prevents the discussion of the true Central American problem. Ortega Saavedra maintained that the United States has practically eliminated the OAS and noted that its presence in this organization prevents many Latin American countries from approaching their problems clearly and seriously.

The Nicaraguan leader believes the OAS must become an instrument, not to declare war, but to serve Latin American countries seeking a better understanding from the United States and to establish a true dialogue with that country.

The Nicaraguan president disclosed that the estimates on the number of Cuban adivsers in Nicaragua have been distorted by the Reagan administration and asserted that the number of Cuban advisers working throughout our country totals 2,500, 786 of whom are military advisers.

In addition, Ortega Saavedra said: President Ronald Reagan has said that the advance of communism in Central America must be stopped at any cost, but we say to him that Latin America is determined to fight for peace and against intervention at any cost. The Nicaraguan president was commenting on the meeting between Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and Ronald Reagan in Washington yesterday.

At that meeting Reagan congratulated Alfonsin on the advance of democracy in the southern cone and stressed that it must not be forgotten that, quote the threat of communist expansion exists in Central America, unquote.

Meanwhile, President Alfonsin, in a truly Latin American spirit, replied that Latin America supports a political solution through dialogue and opposes any kind of intervention.

Leaves Rio for Sao Paulo

PY201801 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo in Portuguese 1702 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega left Rio de Janeiro satisfied with the political contacts he made, and made a point of showing gratitude for the protection extended to him.

Before he boarded the plane for Sao Paulo, President Ortega expressed his concern for President Tancredo Neves' health. He also spoke about Nicaragua-Brazilian relations, saying that the two countries have common problems in the political and economic areas:

[Begin recording] In the political area, we found greater agreement in the face of problems affecting both countries, as well as in the economic area, including trade cooperation. [end recording]

At the air base, the Nicaraguan president shook hands with nearly 40 security agents who escorted him during his stay in Rio de Janeiro.

INTELLIGENCE DIVISIONS TO BE IN ALL MINISTRIES

PY201631 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Mar 85 p 8

[Text] A security and intelligence division [DSI], will also function in the new ministries that have been created through decrees signed by Acting President Jose Sarney. These DSI's, like those at the old ministries, will function directly under the National Security and Intelligence Service. The decrees, which were published yesterday in the government's official gazette, defines the DSI's as organs of direct and immediate assistance to the ministers, connected with the minister's office, the legal counsel's office, and the social communication coordinating office.

Specifying the DSI's functions, the presidential decree says: "The Security and Intelligence Division, DSI, as an organ of the National Intelligence and Counterintelligence Service, SISNI, is charged with assisting the minister in questions related to national security, national defense, and intelligence, and is to be subject to normative directives, technical supervision, and specific control from the National Intelligence Service."

The structure used by the National Intelligence Service [SNI] is thus maintained in order to keep the nation's president informed about administrative matters and political attitudes adopted by ministers and ministeral officials.

COURT SUSPENDS PAYMENTS FOR 'TRAIN OF MERRIMENT'

PY191410 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] After consulting with the executive board of the Senate, Senator Jose Fragelli, president of the Senate, has decided that the passengers on the train of merriment, [those who were hired quickly at the end of the Figueiredo regime] will not receive paychecks as long as the court upholds its ruling against payment of salaries to those persons.

Meanwhile, a motion for an injunction against another "train of merriment" was filed in the Supreme Court by 15 people who had passed examinations for jobs in the Chamber of Deputies. One of the passengers on this train of merriment is the daughter of Deputy Flavio Marcilio, former president of the Chamber of Deputies.

LABOR MINISTER LIFTS BAN ON UNION LEADERS

PY190137 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Labor Minister Almir Pazzianotto today issued a decree reinstating all banned labor leaders. Among the best known leaders benefiting from the decree are Luis Inacio da Silva, also known as Lula, Djalma de Souza Bom, Jair Antonio Menegelli, Bendito Marcilio Alves da Silva, and (Jacob Tasch). Pazzianotto justified his decision on the grounds that it involves the full restoration of the rights of the leaders who were removed from their organizations on misbehavior charges.

NEW DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES END OF POLITICAL CENSORSHIP

PY200346 Brasilia Domestic Service in Porguguese 2200 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] (Curiolano de Loyola Cabral Fagundes), 47, a specialist in censorship matters, will be the new director of the Censorship and Public entertainment Department of the Federal Police Department. He will replace Solange Maria Hernandez.

After talking with Justice Minister Fernando Lyra this afternoon, (Fagundes) said that censorship procedures will undergo a liberalization process. Censorship will be used only for establishing classification criteria from the viewpoint of moral values and good habits, he said. According to (Fagundes), there will be no more political censorship and plays will be no longer banned.

NEW FOREIGN MINISTER ON 'DIPLOMACY FOR RESULTS'

PY201420 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Mar 85 p 7

[Text] The new Brazilian foreign policy, which has been christened a "diplomacy for results" by Foreign Minister Olavo Setubal will be "flexible, creative, and realistic," and it will continue with the policy practiced up to this point which is "independent, persuasive, respected, and influential," according to Setubal.

The starting point of this new line begun by Setubal yesterday "will be to clearly explain our concrete interests in recovering our growth and in reducing our dependency on foreign finance, technology, and commerce." The implementation of this policy will "demand a more effective Brazilian presence in multilateral debates and bilateral negotiations through actions that will allow us greater freedom in handling our own destiny."

The general objective, as stated in Olavo Setubal's first speech, will be "to negotiate with dignity and efficiency our participation in the world scene," without relinquishing our sovereignty and independence. "We cannot accept impositions that take advantage of our temporary vulnerability, which is why we will not negotiate the unnegotiable, or even dialogue under pressure."

Setubal referred to Central America specifically when he mentioned his respect for the self determination principle of each country, of nonintervention, and for peaceful solutions to controversies. Olavo Setubal foresees two action fronts for Itamaraty in the economic field: "As President Tancredo Neves has said, a short term objective for the Foreign Ministry will be to contribute with its negotiating experience, together with the economic cabinet, in implementing policies meant to open new markets for our products and to discuss, on a more realistic foundation, the different forms of mortage for out debt. As a result, in the medium term, we will be in conditions to actively participate in multilateral negotiations with institutions in which Brazil is directly involved and to follow more closely the decisions taken by other organizations, keeping in mind our will in modernizing our own decisionmaking mechanisms and in increasing our presence in such organizations at the leadership level.

Olavo Setubal then focused on the GATT and criticized Washington: "By expanding its scope of bilateral accords and pressuring the GATT into serving its interests, the United States indirectly curtails the economic opportunities of other countries. Thus, in view of the right connection between the payment of foreign debt and free international trade, Brazil will not merely struggle against protectionism, but will move ahead to participate in the revision of the GATT itself so as to adjust its structure to the complex nature of current trade, especially taking into account the interests of developing nations."

The minister promised that his diplomacy will "go beyond traditional forums and conventional issues."

Showing his concern toward technical affairs Setubal stated that since technology is an inexorable process of social and economic changes, "The country which falls behind will be condemned to remaining underdeveloped forever." He recalled that 97.1 percent of the funds the world allocates to research is being spent in rich countries.

Olavo Setubal praised the administration of Juscelino Kubitscheck "whose particular attention to industrialization marked the beginning of Brazil's modernization," and quoted now deceased Ambassador Araujo Castro, foreign minister under the administration of Joao Goulart. These quotes awakened true rejoicing among the youngest diplomats, who consider Araujo Castro a great teacher. Setubal also mentioned the "humanistic culture" of San Thiago Dantas and Afonso Arinos.

A self-confessed liberal, the new foreign minister said that he wants to work "closely" with the legislative branch and that he expects an "adequate system of control" from the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

FINANCE MINISTER TIGHTENS GOVERNMENT FINANCES

PY192106 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Finance Minister Francisco Dornelles yesterday issued a hard-hitting economic package. In addition to the 15-percent cut in public spending imposed by President Joao Figueiredo at the end of his term, Minister Dornelles slapped an additional 10-percent cut on the outlays of the central administration.

For 2 months, federal banks will suspend all financing operations except those related to agriculture and exports. Each ministry will receive a monthly allocation, an allowance every month, and should it want a larger allowance, the ministry will have to ask for it through Congress. In addition, not a single employee is to be hired for the remainder of the year, and any manager of a state-owned enterprise who does not pay his foreign debt will be punished and the bank account of his enterprise will be blocked.

The finance minister also ordered that the rollover of the public sector debt with the private banks be checked and gave notice that tax debtors will be dunned in order to collect 110 trillion cruzeiros to make up this year's federal revenue needs. As a result, the government will seek less money in the market, thus leaving more resources available for the private sector and helping to lower interest rates and reduce inflation in the process. This is much more than what the IMF requires.

JUSTICE MINISTER ON ELECTORAL LAW REFORM

PY201450 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The political parties will be guaranteed participation in the upcoming elections, as well as freedom of organizing and functioning on the basis of established democratic principles. The party loyalty principle will be expunged from the books, and the intra-party subgroups [three subgroups within a party with its own candidate each] and consequently the automatic candidacy of each group leader will be eliminated. In addition, majority blocs [not further identified] will be allowed to form coalitions, the straight-party-ticket vote will be eliminated, and the direct election of mayors in the cities will be restored.

These are seven points of consensus for the reform of the electoral and party organization laws that have been established by the government's political council. For the first time in 20 years, we will have elections free of self-serving rules, said Justice Minister Fernando Lyra after a working lunch during which these questions were analyzed.

COUNCIL REPLY TO GUERRILLAS ON TRUCE VIOLATION

PA191731 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] The National Security Council met this morning to examine the public order situation in the country. The council today asked all civilian and military authorities to be firm with violators of criminal law.

An analysis on public order made by the council reveals that there are serious disturbances occurring which demand the joint action of civilian and police authorities.

In reply to the 19 April Movement and the FARC, the Security Council maintains that the government has not broken the truce agreements and reiterated that an armed political campaign will not be allowed.

Without specifying them, the Security Council stated that military and police forces will implement additional security measures in regions most affected by public disturbances.

FARC SAYS U.S. OBSTRUCTING PEACE PROCESS

PA191935 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Mar 85 pp 1 A, 8 A

[Excerpt] Through an open letter signed by its general staff -- Manuel Marulanda, Jacobo Arenas, Raul Reyes, Alfonso Cano, and Jaime Guaraca -- the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] blames the U.S. Government for launching an offensive against the peace policy in our country. FARC leaders blame the newspaper EL TIEMPO, Government Minister Jaime Castro Castro, former President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, General Bernardo Lema Henao, and Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez for obstructing the peace process. They stated that FARC is not indifferent to a dialogue with the government; it is simply waiting for upcoming meetings to voice its views on the peace process.

The five signatories explained that FARC has spoken out, worked, and struggled patriotically to achieve peace and of course to destory the official notion of "international war" since amnesty was granted. "This does not please the Turbays, Camacho Leivas, Landazabals, Lema Henaos, EL TIEMPO, certain ministers, and well-known liberal attorneys."

They insisted that "never since the amnesty, during the delicate negotiation process and signing of agreements, first with the Peace Commission and then with the National Verification Commission, has the issue of laying down our weapons been mentioned." The group also stated that, after 30 years of terrorist violence under the signboard of "internal war," it is not easy to achieve peace, and even less so when facing powerful interests that have turned the peace process into an ideal business to amass great wealth.

The FARC General Staff concluded by stating that it is difficult to achieve peace in the country under the current conditions. "The Colombian people must mobilize themselves and fight to impose a policy of peace."

In its open letter to the media, the FARC stated: "Our people, who have shown throughout history so much heroism in the face of discrimination, reactionary obscurity, and the impossible task of achieving peace through political means, will rise, and let us not doubt this for even one second, gain peace through popular insurrection."

PRESIDENT ORDERS REINSTATEMENT OF NEWSMAN

PA151959 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Decree issued by the Colombian Government in Bogota on 13 March]

[Text] Whereby Decree No 447 of 1985 is rescinded and a reinstatement order is issued;

Whereas Decree No 447 of 1985 based on the recommendation by the 53d judge of Penal Military Investigations and in compliance with Article 449 of the Criminal Procedure Code has ordered the suspension of newsman Roman Medina Bedoya from his post as secretary of the Information and Press Office of the Presidency;

Whereas the honorable military tribunal has issued a ruling revoking a warrant for the arrest of said newsman issued by the 53d judge of Penal Military Investigations;

Whereas Decree No 447 of 1985 must therefore be rescinded, as the legal basis for such an action is no longer present;

The president of the Republic in full use of his legal powers decrees:

Article 1. To revoke Decree No 447 of 1985.

Article 2. To order the reinstatement of Roman Medina Bedoya to the post of secretary of the Information and Press Office of the Presidency.

Article 3. This decree will go into effect from the date of issuance.

Let it be published and enforced.

Issued in the city of Bogota on 13 March.

[Signed] Belisario Betancur Cuartas; (Lilian Suarez), secretary general of the Administrative Department of the Presidency

BRIEFS

PRESIDENCY SECRETARY -- Lilian Suarez Melo was sworn in at noon today as secretary general of the Presidency of the Republic. The ceremony took place in the protocol office of the head of state. President Betancur and other important government officials were present, as well as relatives of Suarez Melo. [Summary] [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Mar 85 PA]

SEA RIGHTS ACCORD SIGNED WITH COSTA RICA

PA150220 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez is paying an official visit to Quito from 11-13 March in response to an invitation from Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Edgar Teran Teran.

An agreement regarding Costa Rica's and Ecuador's marine areas, which is of particular significance because it reasserts Costa Rica's right over its 200-mile jurisdictional zone and Ecuador's rights over its 200-mile territorial sea, was signed at the end of a ceremony held at the Foreign Ministry. Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Teran Teran said the following with regard to the signing of the agreement:

[Begin recording] The delimination of Ecuador's marine areas is completed through this agreement. In addition, I feel that with this action we have established a geographical fact through the due process of law. Whether it is an area of special jurisdiction, as held by Costa Rica, or territorial sea, according to Ecuador, we have reached a geographical agreement by conceiving the sea and continental shelf as the heritage of our peoples. This calls for a celebration, not only as a landmark in the evolution of our legal system, but as turning point in the achievment of our people's hopes for economic improvement and the use of marine resources. [end recording]

Referring to the agreement, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Gutierrez said:

[Begin recording] As you so fittingly said, this turns our two countries into neighbors. Above all, although this represents an advance in the concept of the rights of nations to their coasts and seas, it is only to appropriate to acknowledge that this development is due in large part to Ecuador. The vanguard position involving the defense of what you regard as territorial sea and what we regard as inherited sea, these concepts play no decisive role in this, which Ecuador assumed alone or as a member of the Group of the Pacific allowed you to recover your maritime wealth and at the same time close the gap that led to the establishment of the new Law of the Sea. [end recording]

At the end of the meeting the Ecuadoran and Costa Rican foreign ministers signed a joint statement reiterating their countries condemnation of the arms race and their profound concern over the growing tension in the Central American region. Foreign Minister Gutierrez said:

[Begin recording] The signing of this joint statement underscores our American ideals, our points of agreement, and our readiness to grapple with the crisis and to solve our problems through peace and within the spirit of fraternity that characterizes the Latin American peoples. [end recording]

In referring to the joint statement, Foreign Minister Teran reiterated Ecuador's unbreakable determination to preserve peace.

[Begin recording] This underscores our peoples' friendship, stresses the principles of international law that are common to use, and makes special mention of our mutual belief in peace, the peaceful settlement of controversies, and negotiated settlement of the dramatic situations which Central America is currently experiencing. [end recording]

Finally, the foreign ministers expressed their governments support for the right of asylum and agreed that it is necessary to protect human rights with an effective and universal legal system.

PRESIDENT STROESSNER RETURNS FROM BRAZIL

PY192156 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Mar 85 p 9

[Excerpts] Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner returned from Brazil yesterday. The plane that brought the president back from Curitiba landed at the international airport in Luque at 1600.

President Stroessner traveled to Brasilia on 15 March to attend the inauguration ceremony of the new Brazilian president, Tancredo Neves. After attending the ceremonies, the Paraguayan president attended a luncheon with the members of his entourage at the Paraguayan Embassy in Brasilia.

In the afternoon, General Stroessner visited the relatives of President Neves, who is hospitalized followed an unexpected operation he had to undergo the same day he was to receive the presidential sash from his predecessor, General Figueiredo.

After paying his respects to the new Brazilian president and his relatives, President Stroessner returned to the military base airport to travel to Curitiba. But before this, he talked with Argentine governors from Corrientes and Misiones Provinces. Upon arrival in Curitiba, he headed for Guaratuba, where he spent a few days to rest at the summer resort located on the Atlantic coast.

In Brasilia, Stroessner was besieged by the press. The president noted the good relations prevailing between Brazil and Paraguay that have facilitated the construction of important joint projects, like the Itaipu hydroelectric dam. Stroessner also expressed his hope that these friendly ties will always prevail so that other great joint projects, like the so-called "Soxeam railroad," can be undertaken.

LIBERAL PARTY MEMBER DETAINED BY POLICE

PY192214 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 19 Mar 85 p 10

[Text] Jose Antonio Ayala, who is seeking to unify the Liberal Party, has been summoned to the office of Police Inspector Carlos F. Schreiber, chief of the Public Order Department.

Ayala this morning went to the police officers's office in the company of lawyer Enrique Simon. When this issue went to print, the two men were being detained in the Central Police Headquarters of this capital. Ayala returned from Formosa (Argentina) yesterday and to his surprise he received a motorized police escort, in the same way as [Popular Colorado Movement [Mopoco], members are controlled by the police, according to Liberal sources. It is not known why the opposition politician was summoned by the police.

BELAUNDE ON 'EQUIDISTANCE,' U.S. DEFICIT

PY191435 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0045 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Press conference held by President Fernando Belaunde Terry, at Government House, with local and foreign reporters -- live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] We will hear Monica Delta from Lima Cadena America Television.

[Delta] Good evening, Mr President. Regarding the current situation, it is undebatable that the cost of living is the common denominator of all strikes and stoppages. Naturally, there may also be political reasons that worsen [words indistinct] of this problem. One of the main factors is the increase in the cost of living, which is mainly affected by the increase of the fuel price prompted by the need to charge $1.25 per gallon, in addition to the monthly devaluation. During an earlier press conference you said that you had told the directors of the Central Reserve Bank that the devaluation should not surpass the inflation rate. What could you say in this regard since the day after you disclosed this Mr (Richard Webb) said that he knew nothing about it?

[Belaunde] Regarding the devaluation, I believe that as of today or tomorrow we will see its pace drop, thus confirming what I have maintained. And this owes to a drop in the inflation rate, which has been proven by the Statistics Directorate. As a consequence, our statement will be confirmed by action. Now then, regarding the cost of living, which is a phenomenon caused by the inflation rate and the deficit, which is the country with the greatest deficit? The United States is the country with the greatest deficit, although you may find it hard to believe. In that country there are many devil's advocates who advise us not to have a deficit, but they have one. The difference between the U.S. deficit and that of the South American countries lies in the fact that the United States has a highly dynamic capital market. Therefore, when the U.S. Govenment is short of money it can resort to the people, to public savings, and easily sell government bonds, which is something we cannot do in Latin America. Deficits and a phenomenon of modern times; we all are experiencing deficits, and President Reagan's deficit is enormous.

Now then, they do not have the problem of inflation because the United States is an industrialized country and we are all aware that the terms of trade are unfair. Low prices are paid for our raw material and high prices are charged for manufactured products and this is where the core of the problem lies. For this reason we believe that Peru must maintain an equidistant stance regarding the superpowers. We may share ideological points of view with one or the other, but our stance must be of absolute independence because we have great demands to make from the two powers. On one hand, in the case of the capitalist powers, we have to protest their excessive voracity by tolerating terms of trade that they could handle in a more fair manner, and we have to protest the insensitivity of the commercial banking sector that cannot be controlled by the very wealthy governments of the world, and, on the other hand -- on the other extreme -- the dangerous exportation of revolutions, the creation of a tense atmosphere in countries that require peace to be able to grow, to develop, to overcome underdevelopment.

Therefore, our position is clear, right now Peru -- as it has always been during my administrations -- may have affinities or discrepancies with one or another ideology. As is public knowledge, we are democrats, but we are absolutely independent and have serious charges against the two great groups, the two great powers that, should they act in a more human manner, could undoubtedly cushion the problems that affect the Third World.

NO CASUALTIES IN ATTACK ON LABOR MINISTER'S HOUSE

PY191440 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1351 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Lima, 19 Mar (EFE) -- An attack with explosives, which caused no injuries, was perpetrated last night against the house of Peruvian Labor Minister Joaquin Leguia. The attackers, who arrived by car, overpowered a private guard at the house, but a Civil Guard officer, who was also standing guard there, put up a fight. Despite this, the terrorists managed to throw a dynamite stick at the house, which destroyed the garage door. The police have reported that no one was injured since the minister and his family were inside the house, which is located in the San Isidro District in Lima. The attackers fled in their car.

TERRORISTS SEIZE RADIO STATION, BROADCAST MESSAGE

PY191625 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Tonight a group of terrorists occupied the Inca radio station and broadcast a subversive message approximately 18 minutes long. In their recorded message, the terrorists harshly criticized the government and urged the people to cast invalid votes during the upcoming elections.

The terrorists, who apparently belong to the Revolutionary Tupac Amaru Movement, arrived at 2030 [0130 GMT] at the radio station premises located in the third block of (Bernardo Alcedo), near (Mince) Road, armed with machine guns and rifles and threatened to kill the personnel if they offered resistance. The station employees disclosed that the terrorists themselves put their message on the air and then fled shouting that they had planted a bomb. It was discovered that they had left just a wooden box.

AIR FORCE PURCHASES MIRAGE, TRANSPORT PLANES

PY131310 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] General Cesar Enrico Praeli has reported that Peru has purchased 26 Mirage 2000 planes. These planes will arrive in Peru during the first half of 1985. Gen Praeli said that these are very sophisticated planes with great maneuverability, especially for air-to-ground combat. He added that pilots and maintenance personnel are being trained and that an all-Peruvian team will be in charge of these planes when they arrive. Stating that the Peruvian Air Force is far better than that of other Latin American countries, he said that six transport planes were also purchased and that they will be used for flights to the Amazon.

LATE REPORT: AIRPORTS IN STATE OF EMERGENCY

PY211300 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] As of yesterday all Peruvian airports, including Jorge Chavez International Airport, have been declared in a state of emergency. At the same time, air communications with other countries and the interior have been cut. This drastic measure was taken by the Transportation and Communications Ministry because of the worsening of the stoppage declared by the Corporation for Airports and Commercial Aviation [Coppac], demanding better salaries after the death yesterday of one of its members during a clash with the police.

MILITARY COURT MEMBERS SUBMIT RESIGNATIONS

PY151514 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0322 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 14 Mar (EFE) -- Five military officers and a civilian, with a position equivalent to a military rank, who were members of the Uruguayan Supreme Military Court (STM) today submitted their resignations.

The STM, which was presided over by Colonel Federico Silva Ledesma, indicted hundreds of persons for high treason or for their involvement with subversion during the almost 12 years of the Uruguayan dictatorship.

SENDIC SAYS TUPAMAROS TO JOIN POLITICAL STRUGGLE

PY152351 Paris AFP in Spanish 1358 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Mar (AFP) -- The members of the National Liberation Movement (MLN-Tupamaros) will join the political struggle within the current state of law, without any conditions. This statement is part of a letter from Raul Sendic, the leader of the dissolved guerrilla group. The letter was read here by his fellow MLN members.

Sendic and 46 other Tupamaros were released on 14 March under the terms of an amnesty and pacification law. Their cases will be reviewed by civil courts.

The group, made up of the last Uruguayan political prisoners, was released 15 days after the advent of the constitutional government headed by Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Tupamaro leader Eleuterio Fernandez Huidobro reported that in his letter Sendic proposed the drafting of a concrete plan, including draft laws and mobilizations under the slogan "For Land Reform and Against Poverty."

Fernandez said that the proposal will be submitted for discussion to student and labor organizations and political parties.

Our historical mission now is to struggle to solve the land distribution problem, he said.

BARTLETT DIAZ MEETS TIKHONOV IN MOSCOW

FL150300 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2018 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow, 15 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Manuel Bartlett Diaz, Mexico's secretary of government, said here today that the foreign policies of Mexico and the Soviet Union coincide on the search for a peaceful solution to conflicts and on nonintervention. In a meeting with Nikolay Tikhonov, president of the Soviet Council of Ministers, Bartlett Diaz added that these are the principles that Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid fights for in his efforts to find a political solution in Central America.

Bartlett Diaz also told Tikhonov that Mexico cannot remain indifferent to the problems of the Central American peoples, who are our cultural and traditional brothers. That is why President Miguel de la Madrid sponsored the Contadora Group's efforts said Bartlett, during the 30-minute meeting in the Kremlin offices, on the Red Square.

Tikhonov, for his part, stated that the USSR supports the Contadora Group's efforts and highly values the contents of New Delhi Declaration, and would be pleased if other nations valued it as well. He said his country values its relations with Mexico and is ready to increase its efforts to strengthen them.

Bartlett Diaz said these relations are positive and have followed a permanent process of consolidation and diversification. He stated: President De la Madrid reiterates through me his desire to strengthen these relations.

In the meeting, the official also discussed the world situation and the threat of war. Tikhonov reiterated the Soviet position of total disarmament and the cancellation of the star wars project.

The Mexican secretary of government also met with his Soviet counterpart, Internal Affairs Minister Vitaliy Fedorchuk.

Bartlett Diaz came to Moscow with the delegation representing Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid to offer his condolences and attend the funeral of Konstantin Chernenko. The Mexican official, accompanied by Senator Hugo B. Margain, left Moscow today to return to Mexico.

PORTUGUESE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER PAYS VISIT

FL182206 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1850 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 18 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- This morning, Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaime Gama, who is in Mexico, presided over a working meeting of Portuguese and Mexican investors on coinvestment programs in industry. At the meeting, the principal topic discussed was coinvestment in the manufacture of steel molds for the injection of plastics, of which Portugal is one of the world's greatest exporters.

The visit by the European minister will officially begin tomorrow, Tuesday, with an honor guard at the monument to the fatherland, located in Chapultepec Forest, in the capital. The minister will then visit Mexico City College, where he will meet with officials and professors of that institution. He will meet later with Secretary of Foreign Relations Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, who will present him with the Sash of the Aztec Eagle, which is the highest decoration granted by the Mexican Government to distinguished visitors.

Meets De la Madrid

FL201457 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid received tonight Portugal's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaime Gama who is paying a courtesy visit. During the meeting, the Mexican head of state and the Portuguese official discussed the excellent bilateral relations existing between the two countries. They also reviewed the present international situation and agreed that it is essential to arrive at a positive understanding which will lead to detente.

President De la Madrid was accompanied at Los Pinos official residence by the Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor.

Minister Gama arrived at the official residence with Portugal's chairman of political affairs, Joa Uva D. Matos Proenca; the director of foreign cultural relations, Manuel Nathaniel D. Carvalho Costa; the assistant director of economic affairs, Luis Jose D. Oliveira; and Portugal's Ambassador to Mexico Francisco Jose Laco Triechler, among others.

Meets With PRI Leader

FL202202 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2115 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- On underscoring the Institutional Revolutionary Party's [PRI] work, Portugal's Foreign Minister Jaime Gama said that democracy in Mexico and the maturity of its political and social institutions could not be understood without examining the role of this party. During his official trip to Mexico, Gama paid a courtesy call to the president of the PRI's national executive committee, Senator Adolfo Lugo Verduzco, during which he extended Prime Minister Mario Soares' greetings. Lugo Verduzco talked to Gama about the PRI's history and the international economic perspectives of developing nations.

Meeting With Trade Official

FL202236 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2125 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 20 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Economic and trade exchange between Mexico and Portugal can be increased and could generate stable exchanges in both directions thus effectively reflecting the industrial potential of the two nations, the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development has said.

During a meeting between Foreign Minister Jaime Gama and Mexico's Under Secretary of Foreign Trade Luis Bravo Aguilera, they discussed the necessity of strengthening bilateral relations and trade exchanges between the two countries. The Portuguese official, who is on an official trip to Mexico, said the level of trade should be increased through a joint project which would provide a high level of communication on investment programs and greater exchanges of market information.

Reiterates Support for Contadora

FL202316 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1555 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 20 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Portugal's Foreign Minister Jaime Gama, who has been in Mexico since last Sunday, said that Portugal will propose an addition to the Contadora peace proposal to reinforce its unconditional support for the group, which is undertaking extraordinary efforts to achieve a lessening of tensions in the region. He added that his country is interested in meeting with the Contadora member nations, Spain, and the EEC toward the end of 1985 to discuss political and economic matters of mutual interest.

ARDITO BARLETTA, COSTA RICA'S MONGE HOLD TALKS

PA201559 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Mar 85

[William Cespedes report from David, Panama]

[Excerpts] The presidents of Costa Rica and Panama, Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez and Nicolas Ardito Barletta, respectively, have concluded a 24-hour round of talks during which they discussed important bilateral issues.

Panama reiterated its determination to defend Costa Rica's institutions and integrity. President Ardito Barletta emphasized this when he indicated that his government is willing to defend Costa Rica the minute the Costa Rican people should ask.

For his part, President Monge Alvarez said that an example has been set for the peoples of the world on what can be achieved through dialogue.

The two presidents signed a joint declaration on a number of development projects for the border region. They also reviewed the Central American situation. The two presidents agreed that the regional crisis must not be viewed within the framework of the East-West confrontation, but from a Latin American context. Therefore, they reasserted their conviction that dialogue and negotiation, the civilized and effective means for achieving a stable and lasting peace, are essential elements in the search for a solution.

They also urged those countries with ties and interests in Central America to abstain from making statements or carrying out actions that might endanger the culmination of the Contadora Group's peace efforts. In addition, they expressed gratitude for the support given be the international community and organizations to the Central American countries and the Contadora Group, urging them to step up their efforts and cooperation so that peace can be achieved soon.

The two presidents expressed their satisfaction over the implementation of a number of programs in the areas of health, technical training, and agricultural and livestock development, and over the bolstering of their respective foreign policies and economies so as to become stronger in the face of Latin America's crisis.

Sign Joint Declaration

PA201952 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 20 Mar 85 pp 1, 14

[Text] Yesterday, at 1830 Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge and Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta signed a joint declaration addressing four specific topics: the international political and economic situation, the Central American crisis, the Contadora Group's efforts, and bilateral relations at both the general level and specific areas dealing with the border.

Regarding the international economic situation, the two presidents agreed that protectionism, tariff barriers, and trade terms make international trade difficult, and they reiterated that negotiations for a new international order must be promoted. In the joint declaration they expressed their hope that "in the renegotiation of the Latin American countries' foreign debt the international financial organizations and the commercial sector will grant greater facilities so that the governments can meet their credit obligations without sacrificing the well-being of their peoples."

The presidents expressed their satisfaction with the development and deepening of Latin American democratic processes, through which the people's participation in the decisions affecting the continent is increased. The two presidents agreed that the Central American crisis "has its roots in the age-old problems related to the social, economic, and political imbalance that has led to the recent outbreak of a crisis." The presidents agreed that the Central American crisis must not be viewed within the framework of the East-West confrontation but from a Latin American perspective.

The presidents reaffirmed their belief that the search for a solution is essential and that dialogue and negotiation are a civilized and effective means to achieve a stable and lasting peace that will lead the region to the path of democracy, freedom, peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and economic and social progress. They praised the Contadora Group's mediating efforts as a valid alternative in finding a solution to the Central American crisis. The presidents expressed their confidence that the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America will be signed as soon as possible. The presidents agreed that a solution can be achieved only when there is no foreign interference that disrupts the conclusion of the peace process promoted by the Contadora Group.

The two presidents issued a call to the countries with ties or interests in the Central American area to refrain from making statements or carrying out actions that endanger the peace efforts.

Costa Rica reiterated its support for the Panamanian people's demand for the fulfillment of the spirit and letter of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

In the field of bilateral cooperation, the two presidents praised efforts being made in the border area, such as the electricity interconnection project, the improvement of the road network, cooperation in the field of animal health, and other important areas of cooperation for the development of the two countries. In this way the Costa Rican president ended his 72-hour [as published] visit to Panama.

Monge Reasserts Ties

PA202342 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[William Cespedes report from David, Panama -- live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez' visit to the Republic of Panama. The Costa Rican president will be seen off by Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta in approximately 1 hour. President Monge is expected to arrive in San Jose at approximately 0930, Costa Rican time. The joint declaration signed by the two presidents ratified the friendship ties between Panama and Costa Rica.

Panamanian President Ardito Barletta said that Panama is willing to defend Costa Rica whenever requested to do so by the Costa Rican people if this can contribute to strengthening, defending, and consolidating its democratic institutions.

For his part, President Monge Alvarez said that the cooperation between Panama and Costa Rica during the past 6 decades, particularly the development plans for the border region, which will be expanded with the agreement signed yesterday, is an example for other countries. Monge added:

[Begin recording] We have given an extraordinary example of peaceful, respectful coexistence, and normal, cordial relations. We believe that undoubtedly this is our best contribution at this time when we live in a convulsed, unstable world with various kinds of confrontations in all regions. Thus, this is our significant contribution -- of Panama and Costa Rica -- to the efforts to bring peace to our Central American brothers. This peace is desperately desired by the peoples north of Costa Rica -- Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala -- and we, without any hegemonic pretenses and filled only with a great fraternal love for the peoples of Central America, wish to offer this contribution which in essence is what we have given throughout the past decades. It is the example that we, the Panamanians and Costa Ricans, are giving as nations. [end recording]

One of the four main areas in which the two countries will mutually contribute on the Panama-Costa Rica border is the health field. The Costa Rican Social Security Institute and the Panamanian Social Security Fund will develop a joint program for medical services at the border. These services will be for citizens of the two countries.

In the area of the training specialists, the National Training Institute will establish a training center that will be open to border residents.

The Public Works and Transportation Ministries will develop joint programs to build roads, and agricultural programs will also be carried out jointly to explore a large common border area. The two nations will benefit from this program.

Monge Alvarez and Ardito Barletta have concluded another round of talks with which Panamanian-Costa Rican relations have been strengthened. Good results are expected for the two countries.

ANOTHER OPPOSITION PAPER BEGINS CIRCULATION

PA181744 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0112 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Panama City, 12 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- A new independent newspaper has begun circulating in Panama City, raising to a total of seven the number of newspapers published in this capital of about 600,000 people.

EXTRA, which bears the logo "Vox Populi, Vox Dei," and whose initial publication has coincided with the IAPA session being held here, seeks to become "the Panamanian people's means of expression," Administrative Director Isaac Taboada told ACAN-EFE.

According to Taboada, the new tabloid-style newspaper, which will go on the stands at noon, will follow "an independent but not intransigent opposition line," and will be based on "real facts." The first 10,000-issue edition will be gradually increased, the director asserted.

The following newspapers circulate in Panama City at present: the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, MATUTINO, CRITICA, LA REPUBLICA, and LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA. No other daily newspapers are published for the rest of the country of about 2 million people.

PRESIDENT SIGNS 1985 GENERAL BUDGET BILL

PA111457 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 11 Mar 85 pp A 1, A 6

[Excerpt] In the early morning hours yesterday, President Nicolas Ardito Barletta enacted into law the national general budget for the fiscal year of 1985.

At the ceremony, which took place in the Yellow Room of the Presidential Palace, were president of the Legislative Assembly, Jerry Wilson Navarro, the government's legislative spokesman, Hugo Giraud, minister of finance and treasury, Menalco Solis, minister of the Presidential Palace, Jose Agustin Espinoa and Dr Rogelio Fabrega, a presidential aide.

President Ardito Barletta, after receiving the document stating the law of the budget and stamping his signature on it, expressed his satisfaction at the work done by the Legislative Assembly for the approval of the budget and called this work "responsible, democratic, and patriotic." President Ardito Barletta said that the legislators knew how to assume the responsibilities that corresponded their duties on how to cooperate with the executive branch to produce a budget and resolve a strong fiscal problem of state, which would not have gotten an adequate solution and would have put the nation in fiscal difficulties whose effects and repercussions would have affected the entire economy. "With the responsible action taken, in a process of consultation and discussion with all sectors of the citizenry in all parts of the country during the past two months, we have accepted the challenge of democracy by resolving our problems by ample consultation," said the president.

The president explained that the action on the budget material allowed us to get out of a problem in order to put the country on the road to greater prosperity, and at the same time strengthening those democratic institutions that is our covenant with the Panamanian people.

SOLIS ON OIL PACT WITH MEXICO, VENEZUELA

PA121450 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 12 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] In view of harsh critics from persons steeped in hydrodynamics, Finance Minister Jose Menalco Solis said that the $229 million owed by Panama to Venezuela and Mexico for supplying oil, under the San Jose pact, is a long-term low-interest agreement. Solis explained that the oil agreement signed in 1984, deposits were based on a five-year plan at 4-6 percent interest, and if invested in government projects, approved by the Governments of Venezuela and Mexico, respectively, would have been converted in a 20-year debt at 2 percent interest.

Asked if Panama is now in a capacity to amortize the debt, due to the grave economic crisis, Solis said that once the national budget is approved the nation will be able to refinance and comply with all its obligations. Solis said that last year, Venezuela and Mexico modified the terms, conditions and interest rates. However, he added that the interest continues to be lower than the preferred interest, seeing that it treats of a debt aimed at development and growth of governments.

Asked about the possibility of not renewing the agreement, due to the qualify of crude oil imported from Mexico, Solis said that the minister of commerce has been making studies to ascertain if Panama will benefit from the San Jose pact or dealing with the open market. Solis pointed out that San Jose pact assures Panama a continuous supply of oil, regardless of price; the open market has a surplus that may last for five years. Should Panama obtain oil from this source, payment must be made on delivery.

Panama is presently receiving 130,000 barrels daily from Mexico and Venezuela, respectively.

COSTA RICA

NUMBER OF NICARAGUAN REFUGEES PROMPTS CONCERN

PA202129 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Through Justice Minister Hugo Alfonso Munoz, the government of the Republic has expressed concern over the constant and mass entry of Nicaraguans into our national territory. In view of this situation, the various organizations that coordinate the assistance to refugees, such as the Red Cross, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and others, have doubled their efforts to take good care of these foreign nationals. Pertinent officials are very concerned, especially because of a lack of supplies such as tents, blankets, latrines, and others. In addition, the housing for refugees is practically full and auxiliary tents have been installed.

EL SALVADOR

FMLN ASSERTS HELICOPTER DOWNED IN PIEDRA PACHA

PA200428 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] At 0930 on 18 March, specialized antiaircraft units of the Rafael Arce Zablah Commander Gonzalo Southern Group ambushed a Huey UH-1H helicopter belonging to the dictatorship's Air Force in the vicinity of Volcan de San Miguel, San Miguel Department.

The helicopter fell in Piedra Pacha Canton and was partially destroyed, killing and injuring some of its passengers, among them Captain Miguel Francisco (Pereta), commander of Leon Battalion. Thus, we continue advancing in our revolutionary struggle. The people's justice will be relentless with the assassin scavengers that are strafing and bombing the rural workers in a cowardly manner from the air. Revolution or death, we will win!

With this helicopter downed by our forces on Monday, the total number of helicopters downed by our revolutionary army since 1982 reaches 18. Eight of these U.S. aircraft were destroyed on the ground and the other 10 in the air.

FMLN'S LEONEL GONZALEZ INTERVIEWED ON CONFLICT

PA182254 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Interview with Commander Leonel Gonzalez, first secretray of the Central Committee of the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, FPL, commander in chief of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, and member of the FMLN General Command, by unidentified Radio Farabundo Marti reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Commander, Radio Farabundo Marti welcomes you on behalf of all our people. Commander, can you give us an overview of the Salvadoran conflict?

[Gonzalez] To be able to answer that question, one must view the conflict from its overall context.

We feel that the people's revolutionary war in El Salvador is a complex phenomenon. The conflict has its roots in the principle that an entire people are fighting against a puppet Army and that the United States is escalating its military aid.

The Yankees, the Ronald Reagan administration, know the real causes of the Salvadoran conflict. However, to deceive the U.S. people and the international public, the U.S. Government, simplistically and (?unilaterally) states that the conflict stemmed from external factors, and makes it part of the East-West conflict. The revolutionary impetus in Central America reflects the search for a (?just) economic and social development model, because the current model is in crisis and cannot provide a way out of the serious social and economic problems the Central American peoples are facing.

This system in crisis is based on the interests of the alliance between the United States and the local oligarchy, to [words indistinct] conservative and greedy exploiters of the large working masses. In El Salvador, the alliance between the United States and the oligarchy has been forged and reinforced. The dominant classes have two power schemes: the reformist scheme and the fascist scheme. The two schemes concur in obediently implementing imperialism's counterinsurgency policies, which basically seek to militarily crush our people's revolutionary aspiration to be liberated.

Currently, the counterinsurgency plan focuses on the top rightist leaders of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the Army high command. Their mission is to isolate the FDR-FMLN at the domestic and international levels to destroy the revolutionary guerrilla army, and to annihilate the civilians living in zones under our control. In other words, the idea is to turn back the democratic, revolutionary process in order to avoid reaching a popular solution to the country's serious problems.

Therein lies the complete agreement between the United States and the oligarchy: to defeat the Central American peoples' aspirations of revolution, liberation, and independence. Ronald Reagan is basing his strategy for the area on escalation and direct military intervention, in combination with implementation of the Kissinger plan for the Caribbean basin. Included in this policy of aggression are U.S. diplomatic endeavors to reinforce the democracies in the region -- understood to be synonymous with elections -- to grant continuity to the scheme based on the alliance between the United States and the oligarchy, and to exploit and abandon the great working masses. In the region, only the people's actual control of power -- the people's power -- can ensure democracy. In El Salvador, the situation arising from the interventionist policy and the escalation of war is imported from abroad. Instead, the United States is directly supporting and controlling the country's political developments, the economy, and the military apparatus. This is an internal factor, and is the main cause of this conflict's prolongation.

[Reporter] Commander Leonel Gonzalez, within the framework of the increasing U.S. intervention in our country, what does the FMLN feel are the effects of U.S. intervention on the country's social and political developments?

[Gonzalez] To answer this question in depth, we must focus on the country's current economic development model [word indistinct] is experiencing a deep crisis. The outlook is not favorable: The economy is in crisis, and [word indistinct] program is in crisis. All domestic factors are favorable for a revolutionary change from current crisis. The democratic revolutionary change is based on the social and economic plan that guarantees the working people's long-standing aspirations: full democracy, independence, and self-determination.

[Reporter] How do you view the current situation?

[Gonzalez] First of all, exploitation and abandonment of the working people has increased. Promised reforms in banking, in the marketing of export products, and in agricultural matters, have not merely been stalled, they have been abandoned. Such is the case with land reform. All the rural sectors which were reformed are experiencing great difficulties in terms of advisory services, financing, and marketing of products. The economic crisis has reached an explosive level for the great masses. There is an increase in unemployment, an increase in the price of staples, a loss of purchasing power, and the devaluation of the colon. The lack of real breakthroughs have [word indistinct]. The death squads have reappeared, as have the murders and arrests of labor and social leaders, and murders of persons residing in the zones under our control, as a result of intensive bombings and military operations. Hundreds of legal actions with political overtones have not been heard in court and have been shelved. Labor unions have been denied the right to organize and assemble. There is no true freedom of expression.

Faced with this serious situation, the masses are struggling to survive, to resist, to defend the rights they have earned, and to achieve total vindication. The workers are in the streets, they are mobilizing, they are exercising their full right to strike; in sum, they are increasing the popular struggle. The reformist and opportunistic plans have failed.

Closely following the policies by previous repressive governments, the Duarte government has set in motion a plan to strike a blow at the people's movement. Simplistically, Duarte is labeling the workers' just struggle for their total vindication as part of a conspiracy plot, and is charging that the workers are being led by international communism. Since he cannot meet the workers' just demands, he seeks to smother them through repressive measures. At the political level, the crisis that the forces in power are undergoing is a fact. There has been a clash among the different government branches. The government's social foundation is breaking down, since the people's demands are not being met. All these factors are deepening its [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Commander, what is the FMLN's appraisal of enemy troops in the military field?

[Gonzalez] In the military field, the fascist high command fully adopts the U.S. advisers' directives and convictions. They have drawn up a plan that is totally defensive and is doomed to failure. At the national level, the puppet Army is facing a very complex military situation. First, they have lost military control over three-fourths of the country. Second, they are facing an offensively capable guerrilla army, which knows the area, uses irregular combat tactics, has fought for 15 years and been engaged in war for 5 years, has increased its morale, and has faith in its victory and revolutionary aspirations. Third, the Army is facing a war that s spread throughout the country. Fourth, nine theaters of operations have emerged, in the country's western and south central sectors and war actions have come close to the major population centers. Fifth, the Army is facing the [word indistinct] of zones under control and in dispute where the masses are building the bases for the new revolutionary power, the people's power.

To respond to that military situation and in an attempt to reverse it, the Salvadoran high command and the Yankees are conducting military operations within the framework of defensive reaction. This war plan is based on the [word indistinct] of the puppet Army to an irregular style and to adapt their commands, their structures and their operations.

The bases of this scheme are: 1) to increase their forces in order to be able to respond to generalized war; 2) to increase their air power with new planes and helicopters, artillery, and infantry; 3) to keep their forces in constant movement, which requires changing the mentality of the troops and their organization; 4) to permanently keep patrol missions in the outskirts and within the zones under our control, seeking to disorganize and weaken the FMLN guerrilla concentrations; 5) to incorporate the civilian population, creating paramilitary structures, civil defense, death squads, and defense committees; 6) to achieve this goal, they want to annihilate the masses living in the zones under our control and populate the area with masses that have received training and endorse the counterinsurgency plan. They conduct this policy through fear; 7) to break down the FMLN's forces through psychological warfare and infiltration plans; 8) to directly involve Yankee advisers in implementing these measures; and 9) to coordinate efforts with another army, which in this case means to coordinate and support actions with the cooperation of the Honduran Army.

[Reporter] Commander Leonel Gonzalez, the enemy has stated repeatedly that the FMLN is cornered along the border area, that the FMLN in losing the war, and that the government Army has complete control over the national territory and has the military advantage. Commander, what can you tell us about that?

[Gonzalez] Our [word indistinct] is that the FMLN maintains the tactical and strategic advantage in the military terrain. The puppet high command and Army have been unable to solve the following problems: first, the problem arising from a depletion of their forces due to the permanent moral and material attrition they are subject to. In 1984, they sustained over 5,000 casualties. During the months of January and February of this year, their casualty toll was over 400 soldiers. There is a constant decrease in the number of soldiers because of the soldiers who complete their military service and then desert. By way of example, after the defeat suffered during the battle at (Chiscote), dozens of soldiers defected from the Air Force parachute battalion. All the garrisons are faced with a steady flow of desertions, particularly, in the 4th Brigade and in Chalatenango's Military Detachment No 1, in the [word indistinct] in (Chacateloque), in San Vicente's 5th Infantry Brigade in Sensuntepeque's Military Detachment No 2, and in San Miguel's 3d Infantry Brigade. The second problem is that the Army has been unable to solve low troop morale, caused by constantly moving the soldiers, failing to provide them with fringe benefits, and the corruption of high command members, who steal the aid money provided by the United States, and unlawful businesses, even with the soldiers' [word indistinct] and food. The third problem is that the military operations conducted deep in the zones under our control, [3-second break in transmission] resulting in a casualty toll of 1 to 10 in favor of the FMLN.

On another matter, the FMLN's tactical adjustments to meet tactical changes that may be needed, have allowed the FMLN...[51-second break in transmission] Also, the direct U.S. intervention in El Salvador is generating greater corruption in the counterinsurgency forces and in the political and military apparatus and is generating a patriotic and anti-interventionist feeling among our people. In sum, the counterinsurgent project that is based on and supported by the alliance among the United States, the PDC, and the high command has come to reinforce the oligarchy's economic and political power and to implement an antipopular and repressive policy against the people. These elements, on the contrary, promote all forms of people's warfare and will pave the way for a democratic and revolutionary change in the present crisis.

[Reporter] Commander, what possibilities for finding a solution to the conflict do you see in the elections that Duarte is currently promoting?

[Gonzalez] We feel that, other than counterinsurgency, the current election plan offers no options to the Salvadoran people. The political parties that are in the race are those that the United States and the oligarchy view as not opposing their interests. This fact alone negates the principles of democracy and pluralism.

The event scheduled for 31 March is part of the counterinsurgency plan to achieve pacification, which is an attempt to eliminate the options offered by the revolutionary democratic project. The democratic freedoms are being constantly violated in El Salvador. There is no freedom of expression or association, and there are constant violations of human rights. In other words, the people are living in democracy in name alone.

The people have been subjected to a well-organized and well-directed psychological campaign, according to which abstension from voting would constitute an act of hostility toward the regime. This demonstrates that the causes that led to the conflict remain unchanged. The oligarchy's economic and political power has grown. [Words indistinct] respect for human rights. There are no guarantees for the workers' labor and democratic rights.

Without a doubt, these elections will not solve the conflict and will only serve to worsen the country's political and military crisis. The FMLN has said that it is always prepared to participate in elections, provided the causes that led to the conflict are removed and if a real election is held to achieve a just solution to the conflict. Therefore, we will not recognize either the local authorities or the legislative branch. We will continue our efforts to achieve a political solution to the conflict. We will seek it through dialogue leading to real negotiations. We will continue to promote war involving all the people, the people's war, before, during and after the elections.

[Reporter] Commander Gonzalez, what type of solution to the Salvadoran conflict do the FDR and FMLN propose?

[Gonzalez] Our fronts are convinced that a solution to our country's conflict can only be found through a dialogue leading to real negotiations. The banner of a political solution must be raised high by all patriotic, progressive, and democratic forces. The political solution cannot be [words indistinct] content. [passage indistinct]

Our FDR and FMLN have submitted a plan to the government for a political solution as a step to begin a process of dialogue leading to real negotiations. At Ayagualo, both the government and ourselves pledged before the people to hold a third meeting. President Jose Napoleon Duarte has not given an official reply. Our fronts are waiting because we are fully convinced that this is the path to peace in El Salvador. It would also help avoid a confrontation in the region.

[Reporter] Commander Gonzalez, we would like to ask one last question: How can the national and international forces contribute to this effort to achieve an overall negotiated solution?

[Gonzalez] According to our views and assessment, the current policy of the Reagan administration promotes the conservative and warmongering interests of U.S. society and is the leading cause of the conflicts. Reagan's abusive, aggressive, and insolent policy, which demonstrates no respect for the peoples' will, must be denounced, blocked, and weakened. In El Salvador, there are [word indistinct] democratic, and progressive sectors and forces, even within the ranks of the Army and the PDC, which oppose U.S. intervention and seek and want peace.

They (?advocate) dialogue and a political solution. There are forces opposed to Reagan's warmongering policy among the U.S. people, too. Countries with democratic and progressive governments speak out in leading international forums against aggression [word indistinct] and advocate a political solution. We must join efforts with the torrent and potential of all progressive, democratic forces to forestall escalation of U.S. military intervention and to defend Nicaragua's right to self-determination and revolution, that is, to defeat the Reagan administration's aggressive and meddlesome policy. Some of these tasks are to turn our struggle for a political solution in El Salvador into a search for peace in the region, to bolster the Contadora Group's efforts, to defend the Nicaraguan revolution and the Salvadoran people's right to self-determination, and to struggle for a just economic order for the region and for Latin America.

This effort must be based on a full pursuit of the people's war by all Salvadorans. The working class, the peasants, the middle class sectors, [word indistinct] must select the democratic-revolutionary option, strengthen the forces that are struggling for a political solution, and resist, advance, and develop ourselves to prevent an escalation of the United States' meddlesome policy.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA VICTORES DECLINES TO RECEIVE FRG DEPUTIES

PA202322 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Ernst Waltemathe and Freimut Duve, Social Democratic deputies from the FRG Parliament, went to the National Palace today to deliver a petition to Guatemalan Head of State General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores. The petition is allegedly signed by 125 FRG Parliament members who condemn the current government's human rights violations. The deputies, representatives from Hamburg and Bremen, went to the National Palace. Later, they said that the head of state would not receive them but appointed General Rodolfo Lobos Zamora, chief of the Army General Staff, to meet with them. The deputies added that Gen Lobos Zamora did not meet with them but told them that General Cesar Augusto Caceres, deputy chief of the Army General Staff, would meet with them in his office. However, this meeting never took place.

As a sign of protest, the deputies, who were accompanied by FRG Embassy personnel, left the National Palace. In an interview on "Here is the World" newsprogram, Deputy Duve said that in his country they have received reports regarding human rights violations in Guatemala.

[Begin recording -- in progress] ...The situation of human rights, to talk with the government, and learn about this. However, today we did not [words indistinct] but we know that the violations continue. We have namelists, we have the names of people who have been kidnapped in the past few weeks. However, we will comment further on this after we have more specific information. [words indistinct]

[Reporter] Will you visit the country's interior?

[Duve] Yes.

[Reporter] What other Guatemalan officials and organizations will you meet with?

[Duve] [Words indistinct] foreign minister. However, at this time it was not possible to speak with the representative of the head of state [words indistinct]. [end recording]

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY LEADER KIDNAPPED IN IZABAL

PA201848 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1913 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG) today reported the kidnapping of one of its leaders in Izabal Department, in the country's northeast. Top DCG leader Roberto Carpio Nicolle today demanded that the military government launch an "exhaustive investigation and return alive" Abraham Cucul, that party's secretary general in El Estor, Izabal. According to the report, Cucul was kidnapped on 8 March by heavily armed, unidentified men. Carpio Nicolle, who is also alternate president of the National Constitutent Assembly [ANC], said: "It is terrible that the frequent kidnapping of political leaders occurs. This does not benefit the government in any way and actually poses a threat to democracy." Meanwhile, the "Mutual Support Group," which is calling for the safe return of hundreds of missing Guatemalans, today threatened to declare a hunger strike should the ANC not issue a reply to their demands. The group asked the ANC to cite political prisoners in the text of the new Constitution of the Republic. Apparently, however, the deputies are opposed to the demand.

FAR STEPS UP ACTIVITIES IN EL PETEN DEPARTMENT

PA200342 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] El Peten -- A CERIGUA dispatch reported that Rebel Armed Forces [FAR] members stopped several vehicles on El Peten Department highways on Friday and Sunday to hold meetings with the occupants. The report reveals that units from the Raul Orantes sector took over part of the highway between Ciudad Flores and the Tikal National Park. During the action, which lasted about 2 hours, the rebels held a political rally with all passengers of vehicles stopped near 36. Similar actions were carried out on Sunday on the road between Ciudad Flores and Santa Ana. Several public transportation vehicles were stopped and the passengers were forced to participate in a political rally. According to reports, the guerrilla organizations have stepped up their activities in that remote community of El Peten Department.

HONDURAS

LIBERALS REJECT BID TO AMEND ELECTORAL LAW

PA210026 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Communique issued by the Central Executive Council of the Liberal Party of Honduras, PLH, in Tegucigalpa on 19 March]

[Text] Conscious of its responsibilities as the legitimate and foremost authority of our political organization, the PLH Central Executive Council issues the following official communique:

1. In view of the latest developments at the National Congress aimed at destroying the democratic institutions and the legal structure of our country's constitutional government, which was freely elected by the sovereign will of the Honduran people, we urge all Liberal Party members to remain calm, steadfast, and watchful, and also to condemn and reject the alliance that has been formed by the eternal enemies of the PLH, who are motivated more by selfish, personal interests than by the nobel and sacred interests of the people.

2. We issue a call for firm support for the constitutional government headed by the distinguished citizen Roberto Suazo Cordova and for his great decisions, which are always aimed at upholding democracy, freedom, justic, peace, order, and social tranquillity.

3. We wish to make it clear that as good Liberals we will oppose the amendments to the law on elections and political organizations, presented by the National Party bloc to the National Congress, which would bring a misguided and malicious interruption of the democratic electoral process and elimination of the Rodista Liberal Movement, founded by our late and unforgettable leader Modesto Rodas Alvarado, as the PLH's current majority.

4. We urge all of the Republic's departmental and local councils to maintain their position of firm support and loyalty to the constitutional government and to the party's legally constituted central authorities, thus allowing the PLH to continue guiding Honduras' destiny through its efforts to transform it physically, morally, and spiritually.

NICARAGUA

OFFICIAL VIEWS U.S. ACTION AGAINST IDB LOANS

PA201702 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Mar 85 p 5

[Text] Cesar Arostegui, deputy minister of foreign cooperation, has told BARRICADA: "We do not think Nicaragua has lost the battle in the U.S. blackmail of the IDB to freeze the $58.4-million credit that was to be granted to us."

Announcing that in the IDB governors assembly in Vienna next week, the member countries might reject the U.S. attitude, the deputy minister stressed that in the assembly "Latin America will wage a battle to prevent an action that would destroy the principles of the IDB." He warned that, more than anything else, what is at stake is the future independent existence of the IDB, because if the U.S. Government establishes a precedent, the institution will be ruled by U.S. policy. Nevertheless, the independent positions taken recently by the Latin American countries with regard to economic and financial problems lead one to think that they could adopt a belligerent attitude to prevent illegal acts in the IDB that would call into question its bylaws, Arostegui said.

"That is why we believe that the countries might reject in Vienna the U.S. attitude of blackmail, which in the long run would harm the Latin American countries, for whose development the IDB was created," he said. He added that at the assembly the Nicaraguan Government will provide proof of fulfillment of all technical requirements for approval of the projects.

When the credits were approved by the IDB loan committee -- the last technical step -- "the Yankees knew they could not technically block them, and Shultz wrote a letter to IDB President Ortiz Mena."

Arostegui charged that even if it had been a technical matter of the loan not being financially justified, the arguments should have been conveyed by the treasury secretary, the U.S. representative to the IDB, and not by Shultz.

The fact that it was done in that manner proves the clearly political nature of the U.S. action. Despite this, Nicaragua will not give up its rights as an IDB member to seek credits based on the merits of the projects and not on any other consideration, as the IDB bylaws establish, Arostegui added.

Asked about previous examples of the U.S. policy of blackmailing multinational institutions, the deputy minister recalled that the United States used its veto power to suspend a $2.2-million credit arrangement that was going to be used by our country to build the Abisinia-El Cua road.

Explaining the IDB procedures, he said that the IDB can grant ordinary capital resources that require a simple majority of the IDB Board of Directors in which the United States possesses 35 percent of the voting power. This is the case of the projects recently suspended. There are also special operations funds that are soft resources used to finance projects in less developed Latin American countries such as Nicaragua. These require an absolute majority, and the United States can use its veto.

That is what happened in the case of the Abisinia-El Cua project. Nevertheless, the Netherlands Government assumed the financing, the deputy minister said in answer to a question about the alternatives for the projects affected by the U.S. policy.

He said that for the past 2 years Nicaragua has not received new IDB loans but that, nevertheless, production continues. He said this shows that economic aggression will not force our country to yield. "Just as it was shown when it mined the ports, and just as it continues to use the mercenaries, it wants to use the IDB as an instrument of financial boycott," Arostegui stressed.

He also recalled some U.S. pressures during the meeting between the EEC and Contadora Group countries in September 1984. In that meeting Shultz circulated a letter among the European foreign ministers proposing that Nicaragua be excluded from any benefits in the cooperation.

"Naturally, the final communique did not reflect Shultz' desire, and we think the same thing will happen in the Vienna assembly, because if the United States adopts that attitude toward one IDB member country, it is easy to imagine that it can do the same against any other member," the deputy minister said.

Regarding the damage to our economy by the suspension of the credit, Arostegui said that undoubtedly the injection of almost $60 million could have directly benefited small and medium-sized producers.

The boycott measures might also affect other projects currently being reviewed, such as $50 million destined for cattle development and a geothermal project for $17 million in Leon Department. "In a normal situation these two credits plus the third one of $58.4 million would have been approved in the course of the year, but they will now have to be the result of a Latin American political victory over the United States in the IDB," he added.

SANDINIST AUTHORITIES ARREST PSD LEADER COE

PA201940 Paris AFP in Spanish 1917 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Managua, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Sandinist authorities last night arrested Tomas Coe, chief of the political council of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), party spokesmen reported today.

A spokesman said that Coe was arrested "without any explanation" at his house in Managua by two militarymen from the Interior Ministry who were armed with M-16 rifles.

The militarymen refuse to give details on the whereabouts of the opposition politician, he added. The spokesman added that "this is merely the continuation of systematic repression against those of us who fight the regime within the law."

He noted that Marlon Madriz, another PSD activist, has been in a government jail for the past 170 days.

ROBELO: NO OBJECTIONS TO RECEIVING CIA FUNDS

PA201941 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Mar 85 p 16 A

[Article by Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] "I raise no objections to receiving money from the CIA because it is a public office of the U.S. Government in Washington, so if it offers money to us it is from the U.S. taxpayers," Alfonso Robelo, leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), has told reporters when asked about the source of funds that pay for his trips.

The Nicaraguan politician made these statements at a recent news conference held at the Holiday Inn in which the "Nicaraguan resistance" announced an ultimatum for the government of President Daniel Ortega Saavedra establishing a deadline of 20 April for a national dialogue, or they will maintain an offensive until final victory is achieved.

Robelo, who responded with a mischievous smile, quickly became serious and added that, unfortunately, the U.S. Congress does not allow the CIA to finance his guerrilla campaigns and his propaganda trips because there is a resolution in this regard which has placed obstacles in this aid in the past 8 months.

However, Robelo said he hopes things will change in the U.S. Congress in a couple of months and will finally get the economic aid needed to continue fighting the Sandinist government.

Asked again about the source of the funds for his constant trips to promote ARDE actions, Robelo indicated that the aid comes from contributions sent voluntarily, by U.S. taxpayers, as well as from private individuals in Panama and other places of the region, as an expression of their solidarity with ARDE.

The ARDE political leader asked: What would be more sinful, to receive money from the CIA which comes from the common U.S. taxpayers or to receive funds, as the Sandinists did in 1979 when the Salvadoran guerrillas sent them $12 million, from the fruit of kidnappings and bank holdups with which they were able to maintain their actions against Somoza's dictatorship.

CHAMORRO CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO HOLD DIALOGUE

PA201828 Paris AFP in Spanish 1659 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Caracas, 19 Mar (AFP) -- Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, a Nicaraguan editor and anti-Sandinist leader, today from this capital urged the Nicaraguan Government to hold "a broad national dialogue" to overcome the crisis in Nicaragua.

Chamorro, who currently lives in Costa Rica, met in Caracas with Venezuelan news media colleagues. He said that the Nicaraguan resistance proposed this type of dialogue to President Daniel Ortega in a document that has not yet been answered.

Chamorro said that the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference is an entity that "has the necessary moral worth" to organize and coordinate the dialogue and that the Democratic Coordinating Board, which did not participate in the most recent elections in Nicaragua, has asked the conference to convoke a dialogue. He said that the opposition has suggested the Episcopal Conference ask the Central American governments to participate in the dialogue as guarantors of the agreements that would be reached. The opposition also suggested that other democratic entities and governments of the continent could also participate as observers or guarantors.

Chamorro gave details about the minimum demands the Democratic Coordinating Board is making for holding the dialogue: suspension of armed activities, an "in situ" cease-fire, lifting of the state of emergency, absolute freedom of expression, general amnesty with pardon for political and related crimes, and full exercise of the right of habeas corpus, as well as guarantees for members of the "resistance" who may participate in the dialogue if it takes place in Nicaragua.

On the other hand, Chamorro assured: "We commit ourselves to accepting that Daniel Ortega will continue acting as head of the executive branch until the moment the people speak out in a plebiscite."

FDN'S BERMUDEZ CLAIMS CONTRAS POSSESS SAM'S

PA201230 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1213 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Nicaraguan-Honduran border, 15 Mar (REUTER) -- According to a Nicaraguan rebel commander, the guerrillas have acquired several surface-to-air missiles [SAM] to counter Soviet helicopters flown by the Nicaraguan Army.

Enrique Bermudez, commander of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN] supported by the United States, told journalists that the missiles are small, portable, and can be fired with a bazooka. Bermudez, however, did not specify the type of missile, now many the FDN had, where they had obtained them, or who paid for them. Bermudez spoke at an FDN command post in a jungle region near the Nicaraguan-Honduran border to a group of journalists who had been taken there on the condition that they would not disclose the location.

Bermudez said: "We would be fools not to do something to fight the Soviet helicopters that can seriously harm us. We will use the missiles as soon as the Sandinists use their helicopters."

FDN leader Adolfo Calero, who lives in Miami, said in November that Nicaragua had received 12 Soviet MI-24 helicopters, known as the Hind, capable of carrying troops, missiles, and machine guns.

Flying at a maximum speed of 332 km per hour, these helicopters have been described as flying tanks due to the heavy caliber of their guns, and military experts consider them one of the best armed counterinsurgency gunships in the world.

Calero said that the Soviet forces had used MI-24's to wipe out entire villages in Afghanistan.

Washington, which accuses Managua of arming Central America's leftist guerrillas with arms from the Soviet bloc, has financed, trained, and armed the FDN and other forces as well. However, the U.S. Congress last year suspended funds for the rebels, known as contras, when their activities provoked an international controversy. Since that time the Contras have had to resort to aid from private groups and other friendly countries.

Bermudez also said: "There are many types of missiles in the international arms market. Should anybody, for example, a Nicaraguan exile, want to buy anything and put it at the disposal of the FDN, he is free to do so."

High-ranking Honduran officers have expressed privately their concern about the possibility that in the hands of guerrillas these missiles might worsen the already poor relations with Nicaragua and increase the danger of war between the two countries.

ARTURO CRUZ DISCUSSES DIALOGUE, UNITY

PA200401 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Interview with Nicaraguan opposition leader Arturo Cruz for the "Here is the World" news program in Guatemala by unidentified reporter; date not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] What is the purpose of your visit to Guatemala?

[Cruz] I came to Guatemala accompanied by Alfonso Callejas to inform the Guatemalan press and the Guatemalan people in general about the proposal and ultimatum we have made to the FSLN that has been violently rejected by the Managua hierarchs. Their attitude shows that they do not want to hold talks with us, Nicaraguans. What they want is a direct understanding with the United States. They refer to the Nicaraguan opposition with scorn and often have said that they prefer to hold talks with the dog owners and not with the dogs, referring to us, the Nicaraguan democrats, as if we were dogs. We are bent on achieving two things: First, to make Central America aware of the fact that the current situation in Nicaragua is not a struggle between totalitarianism and imperialism, but a struggle between totalitarianism and democracy. At the same time, we want to prevent a direct dialogue between Managua's Sandinist government and Washington without a parallel dialogue among Nicaraguans. We feel the same way about the Contadora Group. We believe that any solution within the Contadora process should lead to our country's internal democratization.

[Reporter] The big problem here is that if any merit, perhaps the only one, can be attributed to the Sandinists, or to the Marxists in general, it is their audaciousness. For example, in the case of Nicaragua they have proposed a dialogue with the United States.

This is equivalent to saying that if Salvadoran President Duarte was sagacious, he would have insisted on holding the talks in La Palma with the USSR -- in this case not even Cuba would be considered a suitable party -- instead of the guerrillas. This shows that there is sometimes a lack of the sagacity, impulse, and political initiative that circumstances demand. However, the interesting part in this very sad case is what can happen if, as expected, the Sandinists lend deaf ears to your ultimatum.

[Cruz] Unless a miracle occurs and they pay attention to our proposal, which is what we would like to happen, logically we will continue our struggle. However, this time we will continue outwardly and with all means available. What does this mean? That the political internal forces currently being intimidated will continue doing whatever they can and, logically, the military actions from outside the country will be intensified.

[Reporter] Are the Nicaraguan rebels currently well-coordinated?

[Cruz] Yes, generally I would say that there is good coordination and that there is also unity among them, so to speak. Recently, after the Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] announced its proposal, representatives from all of the resistance movements in exile signed a document, including rebel leaders such as Adolfo Calero of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN], Fernando Chamorro Rappaccioli, who leads another group; as well as representatives of the Miskito groups. Commander Eden Pastora Gomez abstained from signing the document alleging that he feels that it is useless to continue requesting a dialogue and that a military solution is the only way out. However, the CDN document approved by the resistance is worded in such a way that it is a call that can be signed by any Nicaraguan democrat. The document has its own foundations and there is no reason why anyone should hesitate to sign it. The document is ready for any Nicaraguan to sign it, including Commander Eden Pastora. Therefore, if not unanimity, we already have unity and good coordination with Commander Pastora.

[Reporter] How much damage has the presence of former Somozists done to the unity of Nicaraguan rebels?

[Cruz] Well, this is one of the great myths, which could have been true in the past. However, currently it is only a myth. I am glad for the opportunity to emphasize this issue. Logically, the abuses by the Sandinist government... [rephrases] And here I accept my share of the responsibility since I was a member of the Group of 12, a group that backed the FSLN to a certain extent, and I occupied positions as a member of the government junta, Central Bank president, ambassador to Washington... [rephrases] As I was saying, the abuses by the government logically provoked resistance movements that began soon after the revolutionary government assumed power. Naturally, those who had military training played a prominent role, so to speak, in the rebel struggle.

However, the rebel groups have gone through a catharsis or revolutionary process, so to speak. For instance, today, if you look at the FDN forces, which are the largest and best organized, only 1 percent of their 14,000 to 15,000 men are former National Guard members, although logically some of them occupy important positions.

However, 19 percent of their forces are formed by former Sandinist fighters and the remaining 80 percent by peasants in the country's northern departments. In fact, I have been critical of this as well. I was afraid that the Sandinist abuses could lead us into a 360 degree turn and make us return to the past. In other words, return to Somozism after overcoming it.

However, in my recent visits to the bases of the three rebel military groups, and after talking to the FDN commanders, I can assure you that these men want to be liberators, not conquerors, and that no one is thinking about vindicating the National Guard, which belongs to the past. As for Somozism, it was a regime headed by the Somoza family for 45 years, and there is hardly a family in Nicaragua that was not affected in one way or another, to the point that today there are former Somozists, or former collaborators of Somozism on both sides. Naturally, there are former Somozists in the FSLN and in the Sandinist government. Regarding the stigma of the National Guard, I myself criticized it as an institution for its failure to abandon Somoza in time, and instead, allowing itself to be dragged down with him. The National Guard was not really defeated militarily. The almost intact guard collapsed because of all the political pressure and to a certain extent because of the armed struggle. Moreover, former National Guard members have fought and are still fighting with Commander Eden Pastora's forces, very honorably.

[Reporter] However, Pastora is a rebel commander who has systematically presented his opposition to this.

[Cruz] Well, the truth is not... [rephrases] And I hope that Eden, with whom I have a very close friendship, will hear this. The truth is that even though I am part of the civilian struggle, I have taken the trouble to conduct some investigations, as I considered it my duty to [word indistinct]. As I said earlier, I have visited three groups, and Pastora's was the first. I went to his command post on the San Juan River and talked to him. Based on the investigations, some 60 former officials or former members of the National Guard have fought honorably with Eden Pastora's ranks. An example of this was Commander Roman, who died courageously during an air attack against Managua's military zones and Managua's airport. He was a former National Guard member, and I repeat, this was a very honorable action.

Precisely on the day that I arrived at the San Juan River, I had the said opportunity to see the debris of a helicopter that had crashed the day before. The pilot died in the crash, but there was one survivor, Commander Sam, who had been a National Guard lieutenant at the time of the revolution's victory. After 6 years, Nicaraguans who truly want national conciliation should not continue stigmatizing persons who cannot be directly charged with atrocities or abuses. This is why we demand an amnesty as a sine qua non condition for a dialogue leading to Nicaraguans of any so-called political crime. If the rebel forces were to achieve victory tomorrow, I am sure that they would favor such an amnesty for the Sandinists.

[Reporter] What will happen if Nicaragua does not become democratic during 1985 and the totalitarian regime consolidates?

[Cruz] I think that to talk about the consolidation of the totalitarian regime is a very relative concept. I have been saying, and I would like to stress this, that Nicaragua, as a nation, and because of its geographic position in the center of the American continent, is subjected to conditions that present a challenge for an (?extremely criminal) totalitarianism. Also, our democratic nature presents a challenge. It is completely false that we do not have a democratic inclination and that we perfer to be subject to tyranny.

The Sandinists triumphed precisely because they realized that there was this determination, this desire to establish something that I would call social democracy, and the Tercerista plan offered a social democracy, but later came deception. We have the fact that it is one of five Central American countries. We have bases for communication. If you were to pour honey into one of these bases the honey would spread. If you were to pour vinegar then the vinegar would spread. Therefore, there cannot be a system, in one of these countries -- in this case Nicaragua -- that could be totally asymmetrical to the other countries. Therefore, the most the Sandinists could achieve is to end pluralism in Nicaragua temporarily, but they would be condemned to regional confrontation because Central America will not accept this element of friction.

As long as the Sandinists refuse to understand that the only way to consolidate Nicaragua as a state and nation is to move toward democracy, because only through this system could the Nicaraguans contribute to the stabilization of the region... [sentence incomplete] Why are appropriate levels in investment and production areas not achieved in the Central American region? Of course we have the insurrection in El Salvador, and there are problems in other regions of Central America, but nowadays Nicaragua has a system that [word indistinct] which reveals orthodox Marxist-Leninist tendencies, which discourage investments. So I do not think the Sandinists could maintain peace if they decided to block the democratic process in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] I majored in political and economic sciences. If I am mistaken please correct me, but I believe there is no country in the world where sentiment or democratic convictions have succeeded in making a dictator or a group of dictators accept democracy, particularly in the case of Marxist dictators. Therefore, isn't your political assessment and concept of the world somewhat naive?

[Cruz] Well, I believe my assessment is far from naive; I think it is realistic. Therefore I insist that the Sandinists face a dilemma: Either they choose totalitarism, which would result in constant confrontation, or they permit the democratization of the country to end the national crisis. Now, given their ideological and political structure, of which I am aware -- [words indistinct] the Marxist system -- I am pretty sure they will reject the proposal made by all the Nicaraguan opposition groups. In that case, there will be no choice but to confront this Marxist-Leninist dictatorship with all the means made available by God to the Nicaraguans, that is to the Nicaraguan resistance. I am thoroughly convinced that their totalitarianism is what has led us to the current situation, as you can clearly see. We are experiencing very special circumstances this year, which include the Contadora Group's political efforts, the Central American efforts against this threat.

The Sandinists had the imprudence, in national terms, to flirt with and join [enfilarse], so to speak, the Soviet bloc, provoking the reaction of the superpower that is responsible or considered responsible for defending the status quo threatened by the USSR through its emissary Cuba. Taking into consideration all these circumstances, our geographical position, and the factors against them, we believe that maybe, just maybe one of the Sandinist leaders will stop to meditate for a moment, to ponder the situation and say: Well, we should be more Nicaraguan than communist. I know that this is a one in a million possibility, but we want to think it can happen. If by April 20 it is confirmed that the Sandinists are not willing to accept the historical challenge we have presented to them, they will be responsible for the consequences.

[Reporter] We Latin Americans often fail to call things by their names. You stressed that once the Sandinist regime assumed power it began to flirt with the USSR, but any independent observer knows that this flirtation began earlier, even as they were beginning to organize their guerrilla movement. However, the important aspect of Marxist, totalitarian guerrilla efficiency is that a government grows stronger with each day it remains in power. The Sandinists are about to celebrate their sixth anniversary in power. Would you say it is more difficult to overthrow a totalitarian Marxist regime than a 45-year dynasty?

[Cruz] It is more difficult to overthrow a Marxist regime that will become even stronger after its seventh [as heard] anniversary on 19 July than an authoritarian regime or typical dictatorship. It is far more difficult, because the Marxist-Leninists currently governing Nicaragua have a tremendous organizational capacity and have the advice of Cuba, the GDR, Bulgaria, the USSR, and all the so-called internationalists who have turned my country into a testing ground, and they also have all the means to restrict civilian society.

Thus, one of the important points in our proposal is liberation of civilian society, currently held captive through the rationing of food, through the revolution's eyes and ears, as Tomas Borge describes the so-called Sandinist defense committees, espionage, institutionalized lies, and incredible international propaganda machinery. Unfortunately, some of the most prominent democratic leaders in the Western world, where democracy should be the goal, have dual standards. They want a pure democracy in their countries, but they want us to settle for less, to accept more or less what the Sandinists offer. I recognize that the struggle is very, very difficult, but it must be waged. It must be waged and won. In other words, we must fight against their ability to deceive, against their slyness, as one of our bishops perfectly described them. I will give you an example. The leaders of the resistance movement asked me to travel to Managua last week to deliver the document issued by the resistance to the bishops and the CDN.

What was our proposal? A dialogue for peace. However, the Sandinists banned my entry into Nicaragua, stating that what we Nicaraguan democrats were doing was hatching a sinister plan to destabilize their peace efforts, when everybody knows that Daniel Ortega has simply put up a smoke screen for the gullible. Here is another example. Daniel Ortega says he is willing to withdraw 100 Cuban advisers, when 3,500 should leave. Furthermore, if 100 Cubans leave, 100 Bulgarians will replace them. They also talk about freezing the current level of weapons, but tney are armed to their teeth. Besides,they do not honor their commitments. So when we present this genuine peace proposal -- and we would like to stress that it is a genuine proposal -- we know that it is a dream. To that extent you were right when you said that perhaps I am being naive. However, we have discussed this proposal among ourselves. We want the world to know that our proposal is genuine, although it is practically impossible for it to become a reality. This was the purpose of our trip to Managua, to demonstrate our sincerity and to show that it is a Nicaraguan proposal, by repeating inside Nicaragua the same things we have said in exile. As I told a journalist of this same station this morning, one of their most ridiculous statements was that the point of my trip was for me to be arrested. In other words, I was going to Nicaragua so that I would be arrested and put the FSLN in an embarrassing position. What's even more ridiculous is that they said that if this occurred the CIA would then kill me. According to them, I agreed to this plan. It is hard to believe how all these lies have filtered through the Western world.

I recently read an article in a U.S. newspaper in which the author said that the defenders of the Sandinists are always ready to reject any truth that is contrary to Sandinist interests. However, despite all of this, we will continue fighting until we win.

OPPOSITION LEADERS ON ULTIMATUM TO FSLN

PA171430 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Arturo Cruz, Alfonso Robelo, and Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, leaders of Nicaraguan organizations opposed to the Sandinist Nicaraguan regime, said here today they hope the Contadora Group will take into consideration the ultimatum which various Nicaraguan organizations have issued and which in a preemptive and definite way, demonstrates their united stand against the Sandinist regime. Let us listen to Arturo Cruz, former Nicaraguan presidential candidate.

[Begin recording] This proposal differs from previous ones in several ways. First, it reflects a united stand. Second, it has been issued preemptively and for the last time to the FSLN. The proposal contains all elements essential for genuine peace that is based on establishing democracy in our country. The FSLN has not only ignored this proposal, but it has violently rejected it and has threatened political leaders in the country. It had been decided that I would formally deliver the proposal to the Episcopal Conference and to the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board. We wanted to do this so that the bishops would host and moderate the dialogue that would take place. The FSLN prevented us from doing that. [end recording]

Alfonso Robelo said that the ultimatum signed in San Jose by many Nicaraguan leaders is a demonstration of goodwill and desire to avoid bloodshed in reinstating democracy in Nicaragua. Robelo said:

[Begin recording] Aware of the fact that the Managua government has always maintained the strategy of biding time, we have told it: Yes, gentlemen. We do want to make this effort, but this is the last one. What would happen if the doors of this last effort are closed? We would be forced to reach the same conclusion we reached toward Somoza in 1979 when we said: There can be no solution with Somoza. Now we would have to reach the conclusion that with the Sandinists there can be no solution. From now on, the only thing useful is pressure -- political, diplomatic, economic, and military pressure. I do want to point out that this is a serious, genuine, and responsible effort on our part. This is evident by the fact that we made two offers showing our goodwill. The first offer appears on page four where we state that if this dialogue takes place we will accept Mr Daniel Ortega as acting head of the executive branch until the people speak out in a plebiscite. Secondly, we offer to unilaterally implement a cease-fire the moment the dialogue begins. [end recording]

FDN LEADER COMMENTS ON SANDINIST PROPAGANDA WAR

PA170053 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Enrique Bermudez, chief of the strategic command of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN], has said that the true situation in Nicaragua differs considerably from what is being said in Washington and in U.S. congressional circles. In an exclusive interview with this station, Commander Bermudez said:

[Begin recording] With great surprise, I have realized that what is happening in Nicaragua is one thing, while in Washington a campaign is under way involving a large number of leftist organizations that support and corroborate all the reports that are being used by the Sandinists.

I now realize that the Sandinists, being incapable of winning a military victory or of stopping the FDN advance on the field, are trying to convert their military defeat into a political victory. They are using the same methods that were used against the U.S. Army in the Vietnam war. They have experience in campaigns of this type and they are using it to the utmost. For this reason, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to all Nicaraguans who are in exile in Central America, the United States, the Caribbean, or wherever, and who know of human rights violations committed by the Sandinists to compile this information, file it, or prepare a report through a lawyer and present it or mail it through some organization that has access to the U.S. Congress. This is a war that we have to win and all Nicaraguans have to participate in this campaign. The fighters are doing their part; it is now up to the Nicaraguans in exile to unite and compile all the information on human rights violations. Refugees are continuously arriving in the Central American countries. [end recording]

Along with three regional commanders, Bermudez was recently in Washington to meet with U.S. senators to get them to support U.S.aid to the FDN:

FDN'S CALLEJAS COMMENTS ON LEVELS

PA200328 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Alfonso Callejas, a high-level leader of the anti-Sandinist armed opposition organization Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, said today in Guatemala City that the Nicaraguan Armed Forces levels of weaponry can be compared with those of the Armed Forces in Mexico and Brazil.

[Begin recording] [Callejas] The weaponry levels attained by the Sandinists, aided by the Soviet Union, surpass all past weaponry levels. The so-called Sandinist People's Army, EPS, which should be called the national army of Nicaragua, surpasses the combined Central American armies in numbers and weapons. It can be compared to the Armed Forces of Mexico and Brazil, nations that are undoubtedly larger than our small homeland.

[Question] In your opinion, what is Nicaragua's future?

[Callejas] I view it optimistically because the Nicaraguan people have decided to shake off this new yoke; many Latin American and free world governments have decided to cooperate so that we may attain full freedom and establish a regime that satisfies the Nicaraguan people's aspirations for freedom and peace. [end recording]

Callejas also denounced the fact that human rights are being violated by the Sandinist regime:

[Begin recording] Anyone who does not give in to the nine commanders' demands cannot survive in Nicaragua because he would not have coupons to obtain food or drive a vehicle...[rephrases] purchase fuel for his vehicle. This situation is little known abroad and it is precisely for this reason that I thank you for giving me the opportunity to denounce these facts. Thus, the youths of Guatemala and the free world countries must stop supporting a regime that only seeks to repress its people. There is no freedom of education; in fact, since the regime has enforced military service, 16-year-old youths are taken out of the school or university and forcibly turned over to the EPS, which is not a national army but the army of a party. [end recording]

CASTRO ON WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA, ETHIOPIA

DW201245 Hamburg ARD Television Network in German 2130 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Interview with President Fidel Castro by Swedish correspondent Peter Toegensen in Havana; date not given; in Spanish with superimposed German translation; from the "Current Topics" program; recorded]

[Text] [Toergensen] Is there any possibility that Cuban troops will be withdrawn from Africa?

[Castro] Yes, there is a possibility of withdrawing some of the troops, but only if an agreement is reached on the basis of the proposal that has been submitted to the UN secretary general. The points of such an agreement are clear. There must be independence for Namibia, a discontinuation of support for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, and the guarantee of the agreement by the UN Security Council. This agreement must guarantee the security and sovereignty of Angola. Formulas with a trap or containing deceit, and therefore spelling suicide for Angola, will definitely not be acceptable to the Angolans. That not only applies to Angola; the peoples of East Africa also do not want anything of the sort, not Tanzania or Zimbabwe or Zambia, because this is exactly what the consequence of a Cuban pullout would be. I must add one thing. The Cubans there also feel a bit exposed in view of the aggression from South Africa.

[Toergensen] What about Ethiopia?

[Castro] The situation in Ethiopia is different. To begin with, our people are there because the Ethiopian Government wants them there. However, they do not have the same role as those in Angola. It is a much smaller group. The Ethiopian Army is quite large, powerful, and experienced, while the Angolan Army is not.

The Ethiopians only need a bit more time. They have a war at home, and they cannot accept our immediate and sudden withdrawal, say, within a period of 6 months. They will definitely need us for another 3 years.

FORMER MARIEL REFUGEES RETURN FROM U.S.

FL201805 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] In accordance with the agreements for the normalization of the immigration process between Cuba and the United States, signed last December, a group of 28 Cuban citizens arrived in our country yesterday.

As was announced when the first group arrived, these individuals will be subject to medical examinations and controls for a period sufficiently long to determine the condition of their health. Each one will also be evaluated on the basis of his personal history since he left Cuba. Each will be treated in accordance with the policy set forth by Comrade Fidel, when he reported on the talks and agreements dealing with immigration questions between our country and the United States.

As has already been stated, the total number of Cuban citizens residing in the United States who could become involved in this repatriation process is 2,746.

GUATEMALAN URNG LEADER RAMIREZ INTERVIEWED

PA152355 Havava International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Interview with Oscar Ramirez of the Guatemalan Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, member of the URNG, by Ezequiel Perez Martinez; date or place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Ramirez] The Guatemalan military regime has prepared its big strategic plan for this year in an effort to consolidate an important stage in its counterinsurgency operations. The plan consists of granting legal and consitutional status to all counter-insurgency operations, thus seeking to attain a political basis through the so-called democratic opening, that is to say, electoral opening. In this way, and according to the Constitution, the reorganization of state institutions would take place as a counterinsurgency function. Repressive mechanisms would somehow be protected by the Constitution and would be benefited by other measures also. The government has also tried to reconcile some of the interests of the various powers in the country and in this manner has granted these sectors hegemony in order for them to again consolidate their absolute rule over the state. That is to say, the Army would take over absolute control of the state, not only to develop counterinsurgency plans but to move to an advanced stage in the militarization of the oligarchic power.

[Perez] We would like to have your opinion on rumors circulating lately on a continuation of these electoral maneuvers in Guatemala. What can you tell us about this?

[Ramirez] The military dictatorship is submerged in a number of contradictions. One of them is that the ruling group in the Army headed by Lobo Zamora has not been able to demonstrate to the rest of the Army and the other power factors its ability to attack the revolutionary movement. This hegemonic group seeks to assert itself to continue controlling the country, as I said previously. The political basis is so weak that they cannot achieve the necessary basis through political parties for the continuation of the counterinsurgency operations. They have been seeking agreements with the political parties in the form of alliances, concessions, compromises, and so forth, in order to achieve their objectives. As a whole, the military actions and offensives that the URNG forces have carried out thus far this year have proven that the revolutionary movement has not been defeated. On the contrary, it has exposed the Army's attempt at a psychological battle, not only because it has not been defeated, but because the quality of our military actions has improved by leaps and bounds.

[Perez] What is the URNG's view on Guatemala's role in the Contadora process?

[Ramirez] The Guatemalan regime should complement the Contadora Group's political actions. We are all aware that the regime is isolated from the international community. Statements made by the United Nations and a long list of statements of repudiation issued by international humanitarian organizations confirm this. The regime needs to make room for itself in the international community. However, the regime realizes that the Reagan administration wants Contadora to fail and that El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica support that stance. Actually, Guatemala's role would have to go beyond complementing the Group's action. If Guatemala were able to expand the bloc by participating in the peace-seeking efforts, it would make an important contribution to Contadora. However, the impasse Contadora is in will prolong itself so long as the bloc of countries I mentioned continue to set obstacles to the signing of the Contadora peace document. The regime uses this situation to its advantage in two ways: First, it manipulates the Contadora issue to open political space for itself in the international community by putting up a facade, and second, it attempts to blackmail the Reagan administration on the Contadora issue to obtain an increase in military aid [words indistinct] increase in economic aid for counterinsurgency plans.

BRAZIL'S ECONOMIC, POLITICAL SITUATION

PA152344 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 14 Mar 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] After almost 2 decades of military dictatorship, the Brazilian people are entering a bourgeois-style democratic period. The opening process comes after a long struggle by the people for their social, political, and union rights and the failure of the military to head the government. Brazil, the largest country in South America, now has a difficult task ahead. It has to reconcile all the political forces in an attempt to implement an economic mechanism that will give a breath of fresh air to their suffocating productive structures and to promote the liberation of trade and development of agriculture.

However, this is not something that comes easily for a nation of approximately 130 million inhabitants with a high unemployment rate, a downtrodden majority, and a large foreign debt of more than $100 billion. This has been the result of 20 years of military dictatorship that has sold the country to transnationals who have operated with the advantage of cheap labor and have exploited Brazil's fabulous natural resources. It was the era in which capitalist propaganda described the country's artificial industrial development as the Brazilian miracle.

The miracle hoax gave way to disenchantment and today Brazil's economy is virtually bankrupt. Industry is not only bankrupt but there are no national mechanisms for a possible industrial reactivation because of the insolvency of the country's capital which has been absorbed by the voracious transnationals, especially the U.S. and Japanese.

Agriculture is equally unprofitable. In that huge country, more than 200 million hectares of arable land stand idle and are in the hands of owners of large estates. This represents 5 million hectares more than the area cultivated by the 2.5 million small farms. The situation in Brazil's northeast is especially difficult. For years this area has been hit by a harsh drought and has suffered the government's lack of attention. It is here where one can most clearly appreciate the differences that today divide the Brazilian people into a tiny, extremely wealthy group and a large, extremely poor majority.

This situation affects the large masses of workers and peasants without land and who lack the resources to live any resemblance to a decent life to the point that of the 3.9 million children who will be born in Brazil this year, more than 300,000 will die from hunger and malnutrition. In the northeastern region alone, 157,000 will be affected by this tragedy.

This very dramatic reality places Brazil sixth in the world in the number of its malnourished inhabitants. Not only the children are starving but approximately 80 million adults find themselves in the same situation.

Recently the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops said that the difficult socioeconomic situation of the majority of the country's inhabitants does not have a short-term solution. The organization went on to say that some feel that the renegotiation of Brazil's huge foreign debt will resolve the social problems; however, nothing is farther from the truth because the problems experienced by the people are structural and the debt is only a party of Brazil's deformed economic system. [10-second break in transmission] Cuban President Fidel Castro said that one of the problems the Latin American countries will have to resolve is the one regarding their development which will necessarily have to be accompanied by changes in the social and economic structures. That challenge is one of the aspects the new Brazilian civilian government will have to face in its announced desire to consolidate democracy.

U.S. TRIPS TO DISTORT NICARAGUAN RELOCATION POLICY

PA210016 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 19 Mar 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Government has launched a propaganda campaign aimed at distorting the objectives of the peasant relocation policy that the Nicaraguan Sandinist revolution is carrying out to protect hundreds of peasant families from the criminal attacks of the counterrevolutionary groups. The U.S. news media and international news agencies are collaborating in this campaign to make everyone believe that the Nicaraguan peasants are the Somozist mercenaries' main logistic support and that for this reason they are being forced to give up their homes. However, this is not so.

In the first place, the peasants are being relocated for humanitarian reasons. Many families in rural areas have been victimized by the counterrevolutionaries. Another reason for this action is to protect the crops from attacks by the Somozist mercenaries. In order to achieve these objectives, the Nicaraguan revolutionary government has proceeded with the relocation program and has asked the people and the state's organizations to cooperate.

The relocation of thousands of peasant families, most of them from the northern part of the country, has created additional hardships for a country already troubled by a war of attrition and an economic blockade. This action is being carried out due to strict necessity and it does not pursue any political objective, as U.S. officials and news media have been insinuating. Many of these peasant families who come from mountainous regions are living in provisional camps while the government builds new houses and other facilities under a social emergency plan. A nation which has been compelled to use 40 percent of its annual income for defense purposes as a result of the armed aggression promoted by the United States does not have the financial resources to immediately solve the problems of the families that are being relocated.

This new situation will seriously affect this year's housing projects in other parts of the country. The 2,000 homes that were going to be built in urban zones will be built in these new communities where the peasant families will be relocated, far from the vandalism of the counterrevolutionaries. As we all know, Nicaragua not only needs houses, it also needs health and educational centers, buildings for other types of social activities, and a new land distribution system to replace the land the peasants have had to abandon due to the existing situation.

The departments most affected by the present situation are: Esteli, Madriz, Nueva Segoviva, Jinotega and Matagalpa, predominately mountainous regions from where the peasant families have had to be moved due to the war situation that exists in these departments. Many peasants have already been relocated to El Escabrar and Santa Cruz, two communities located in the fertile Jalapa Valley.

The massive relocation of peasants will certainly affect the harvest in these departments, which produce approximately 80 percent of the coffee exported by Nicaragua. As a matter of fact, this year's harvest was approximately 10,000 tons less than last year's, which means a substantial reduction in the country's foreign income. Despite the country's limited resources and its economic problems, the Sandinist government was able to relocate 1,600 families from Jinotega and Matagalpa Departments during the first 3 months of 1985 with the peasants' cooperation. This negates the falsehoods that the U.S. Government and news media are disseminating.

TEXT U.S. MILITARY ROLE IN PUERTO RICO DENOUNCED

PA200412 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Since late in the last century, the United States has not only been illegally occupying Puerto Rico, but it has been using it as a base for aggression against other nations in the area. Now, jeopardizing the security of the native population, it has incorporated this Caribbean island into its nuclear warfare system.

THE NEW YORK TIMES disclosed in February that Puerto Rico is one of the four countries in which Washington would deploy nuclear weapons in the event of an emergency. In fact, all indications are that the Roosevelt Road base in Puerto Rico territory is ready to receive, if it has not already done so, nuclear weapons for the U.S. submarines that use the docks of the military installation.

According to recent denouncements and a study by U.S. researcher William Hartley, personnel specializing in the storage and conservation of atomic weapons, in this case antisubmarine B-57 bombs for the U.S. Navy, are working at Roosevelt Road. A long report on the military installation in Puerto Rico adds that there are physical structures at Roosevelt Road that can be converted into an emergency command post for nuclear weapons systems in the event that an enemy response puts out of commission or destroys the central command post in the continental United States. In other words, Puerto Rico, has in effect, assumed a dangerous role in the event of a nuclear war, and its soil has become a sure target for a military response if Washington decides to unleash a global war.

Puerto Rico already has important functions to perform with regard to the coordination of the (?U.S.) nuclear fleet through communications centers in various places. For example, the low-frequency antenna in the area of Aquada is only one of 20 antennas that Washington has throughout the world to retransmit messages to its atomic submarines. The antenna in Isabella, also in Puerto Rico, has the capacity to transmit priority messages to the surface ships of the U.S. Navy, 80 percent of which carry nuclear weapons.

Naturally, Puerto Rico's integration as an important element in Washington's military structure is nothing new. For many years the United States has earmarked millions to establish military installations on the island, which has been the site of many maneuvers by all U.S. military services and a testing ground for the most visible war weapons.

However, the stockpiling of nuclear weapons turns Puerto Rico into a target in the event of a conflagration. According to estimates, a single 1-megaton bomb dropped on the base at Roosevelt Road would instantly kill 50,000 Puerto Ricans, and as a result of the atomic clouds and effects of the explosion, this figure would climb to 1 million human beings within 1 month.

This is the destiny Washington has reserved for a nation it has kept under its aegis since the last century and against whose people it has unsuccessfully tried all types of assimilation methods. This shows the importance of the struggle of the Puerto Rican Independence Party and Latin American progressive forces to make Washington unconditionally withdraw from an unrenounceable part of our large fatherland.

LAST LINE

COMMENTARY DENIES PROGRESS BY SALVADORAN REGIME

PA201301 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 18 Mar 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Recently the Salvadoran regime has tried to play down the importance of the FMLN's armed actions, alleging that the Army has been able to neutralize major guerrilla operations and has taken the offensive. International news agencies, which attach undue significance to the counterinsurgency operations of the regime and characterize the rebels' actions as skirmishes, are helping to achieve this objective.

But this is merely the pursuit of a policy aimed at creating a positive image of the Salvadoran regime, which is plagued by profound disagreements. The disagreements between young Army officers and veteran officers as to how to conduct the war are no longer a secret. The disagreements became so acute in late 1984 that several Army officers released a document in which they openly criticized the military methods and strategy pursued by the government authorities. To this must be added the fact that these disagreements and this struggle for power have led the principal center and rightist political groups to threaten each other. The leading contenders in these disputes are the ruling Christian Democrats and members of the ultrareactionary Nationalist Republican Alliance, whose leader, former Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, is the head of the death squads.

All this and the main factor, the guerrilla activities, have accelerated the regime's decay and threatened to scuttle the policy of internal reorganization of the repressive government machinery promoted by the United States. This has led Washington to mediate a conciliation of the political groups wielding power in El Salvador and to launch a propaganda campaign to dismiss the importance of the regime's internal crisis before the world and mainly U.S. public opinion. The objectives of the White House are to silence the protests of large sectors in the United States critical of the administration's open meddling in El Salvador and to convince the U.S. Congress of the need to continue financing the regime.

Through this new campaign Washington seeks to demonstrate that in scarcely 3 months the Salvadoran Army has overcome the crisis plaguing it and is again taking the offensive in the war. However, the truth is that the disagreements within the regime have not been eliminated, and the FMLN is not on the defensive

During the first few months of this year the insurgents inflicted over 500 casualties on the Army in actions throughout the country's northwestern region where, according to government reports widely publicized by certain news agencies, guerrilla hotbeds have been eradicated. Northwestern El Salvador is a vast region which has been virtually in the hands of the rebels for several years. It contains truly liberated territory where schools and hospitals operate; where the land is tilled; and where the population and the guerrillas engage in recreational activities.

None of the regime's antiguerrilla operations has succeeded in changing this situation. In addition, guerrilla actions are on the increase in the rest of the country, with particular emphasis on the pursuit of a strategy aimed at affecting the regime's war economy. The effects of the FMLN's actions are felt even in San Salvador.

This is the situation. The policy of silence that the United States is trying to impose will not change the course of the war, which is tilting more and more in favor of the people and their vanguard, the FMLN.

GRENADA

RADIX SAYS MBPM WILL NOT JOIN WITH NJM RADICALS

FL200144 Bridgetown CANA in English 2316 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 19, CANA -- Leader of the moderate splinter wing of Grenada's New Jewel Movement (NJM), Kendrick Radix, today ruled out any possibility of holding unity talks with the radical faction whose military coup in October 1983 led to the collapse of Marxist rule here. Radix, who leads a new left-wing group named after slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, killed in the coup, was responding to a release purported to come from remnants of the NJM in which they called for all democratic, progressive, and anti-imperialist forces to come together in the struggle to ensure that Grenadians can once again become the masters of their own destiny. We would never ever join up with these elements because they are dangerous people. We would never join with anybody who kill the people, because we believe in freeing the people.

Bishop, three cabinet colleagues, and more than 100 others were killed at Army headquarters following a bitter leadership feud between hardliners and moderates within the NJM. The military takeover triggered a US-led invasion. Democratic rule has been restored following a general election last December.

Radix said that during the political disturbances, when he as a Bishop supporter was detained, threats were made against his life by those radicals and as such his new group, known as the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), would not merge or hold discussions with the radicals.

According to the release, among those persons still claiming to be members of the NJM are ex-mobilisation minister Selwyn Strachan, Major Leon Cornwall, the former envoy to Cuba, and Ian St Bernard, the former commissioner of police. St Bernard was freed last August on charges of murdering Bishop, but Strachan and Cornwall and seventeen other former military and government officials including Bishop's ex-deputy, Bernard Coard, are awaiting trial in connection with the bloody coup.

RADIX URGES FOLLOWERS TO PREPARE TO REGAIN POWER

FL202058 Bridgetown CANA in English 1557 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 20, CANA -- Greanda's leftist leaders have urged their followers to prepare themselves to regain power. In a speech on the 6th anniversary of the 1979 leftist coup last week, leader of the left-wing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) Kendrick Radix declared that one day coming soon the people would rise again to build their revolutionary process in Grenada.

Let those who wish us well and let those who wish us ill remember that we are forging a new generation of youth who would again recapture the independence of Grenada, the freedom of the worker, and the fulfilment of democracy, he said. The masses are waiting their time for the next round, he told about 300 supporters.

Radix served as industrialisation minister in the Marxist New Jewel Movement government which ousted the Sir Eric Gairy regime in a March 13, 1979 coup, the first in the English-speaking Caribbean. The NJM administration collapsed 17 months ago following a leadership struggle which climaxed in a bloody military takeover by hardliners, triggering a U.S.-led invasion. General elections held last December saw the centrist New National Party of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize capturing 14 of the 15 parliamentary seats. The MBPM, named after former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop who was killed in the military coup, failed to gain a seat and received less than 5 percent of the votes.

Radix, speaking at the St George's market square, said that the Grenada revolution was for food and work and had nothing for the rich but everything for the poor. We make a commitment today as we have made a commitment in the past to build a process in Grenada in which every man and woman would again be a brother and sister to one another, and to build a process that would enhance the cooperation of many men, and put an end to human exploitation once and for all. He said that although the Grenadian people were living under U.S. military occupation they still believed in liberty and democracy, and the struggles of our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua, Angola, and Mozambique and all over the world and in their revolution, and country, and built it in their own image and likeness. [sentence as received]

Radix stressed that the task of supporters of the left in Grenada at this time is to understand the contributions made by Bishop and those killed in the coup, as well as read and study the many speeches made by the slain prime minister.

Former NJM Agriculture Minister George Louison, who also spoke to the gathering, said that the left intended to rebuild for the future because our responsibility, our cause, and our fight is a noble fight for the masses, the poor, and the working people of our country.

JAMAICA

BANANA, RAILROAD COMPANIES LAY OFF WORKERS

FL181656 Bridgetown CANA in English 1639 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 18, CANA -- More than 1,100 Jamaicans in two public sector companies today lost their jobs in another grim reminder of the difficulties in the island's economy. Some 810 of the new jobless were employed by the Banana Company of Jamaica, which has ceased operations, and 305 from the Jamaica Railway Corporation (JRC), which has lost business because of a refinery closure in the ailing bauxite-alumina industry.

The government is disengaging itself from the banana industry and has set up a new grower controlled company to export the fruit, a function formerly handled by the banana company. As a consequence the company relinquished responsibility for the transportation and loading of fruit and the operation of boxing plants. Officials say that it is possible that some of the redundant workers could find new jobs when new arrangements were worked out.

According to public utilities and transport minister, Pearnel Charles, the redundancies at the railway corporation stemmed directly from last month's indefinite closure of the Jamaica Alumina Refinery of the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa). Charles said that 80 per cent of the railway's revenues came from hauling bauxite and alumina for the companies operating here, of which Alcoa's share was 25 per cent. The closure of Alcoa has transformed an already poor financial position into a crisis, Charles said. He said the redundancies would save the company only J3 million dollars of the J5.5 million dollars lost through Alcoa's decision, and other means were being examined to make up the deficit.

ST LUCIA

COMPTON TRAVELS TO EUROPE ON OFFICIAL VISIT

FL191428 Bridgetown CANA in English 1814 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, March 18, CANA -- St Lucia Prime Minister John Compton left Barbados yesterday on an official visit to several European countries for talks on matters relating to the economic development of the island, the goverment said today.

In London, he will be granted an audience with the queen, and meet with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Baroness Young, the minister in the foreign office responsible for Commonwealth affairs. In Paris, he will meet the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the minister for economic co-operation. Compton will also visit Malmaison, the home of Empress Josephine, the wife of Emperor Napoleon and who was reputed to be born at Paix Bouche, a small community in East Castries.

In Germany, the prime minister will meet with the foreign minister and the minister of economic co-operation. He will also address the Chamber of Commerce in Frankfurt. In Brussels, Compton will meet a senior Belgian minister and hold discussions with the commission of the European community on the allocation of aid to St Lucia, under the Lome Three agreement with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states. He will also meet with the secretary-general of the ACP, and the group of Caribbean ambassadors in Brussels. Before returning to St Lucia, the prime minister will address the St Lucian community in London and the West India committee on investment prospects in St Lucia.

Accompanying the prime minister from Bridgetown where he attended the funeral of the late Prime Minister Tom Adams, were John Bristol, parliamentary secretary, and Allan Chastanet of the Ministry of Planning and Development. Joining the delegation from London will be Dr Claudius Thomas and Charles Cadet of the St Lucia high commission in London. The prime minister is due to return to St Lucia at month end.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

FL202006 Bridgetown CANA in English 1619 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 20, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago's foreign minister, Errol Mahabir, will have discussions in New York today with United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, government officials here reported. Mahabir, who arrived in New York yesterday, will also have talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and with World Bank officials later this week.

It is Mahabir's first visit to the United States since being switched from the Ministry of Labour to Foreign Affairs in a recent cabinet reshuffle. The government has not spelled out what he would try to achieve, but the EXPRESS newspaper said Mahabir was on a mission aimed at winning friends and influencing people, with particular emphasis on the U.S. Government.

Today Mahabir is also due to meet Blaise Pabetafika, president of the UN Security Council, which Trinidad and Tobago is a new member, and other council officials as well as New York-based ambassadors from Caribbean Community (Caricom) member countries. When he meets with World Bank officials, Mahabir is expected to seek to change the financial institution's decision to graduate Trinidad and Tobago, making it ineligible for the softest loans.

UN ENVOY HOLDS TALKS, DEPARTS FOR VENEZUELA

FL210036 Bridgetown CANA in English 2145 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 20, CANA -- United Nations special envoy Diego Cordovez left here today for Caracas, saying he had a clearer understanding of the Guyana position regarding its century-old border dispute with Venezuela. After two days of intensive talks with top government officials including Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson and President Forbes Burnham, Cordovez told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY: I feel we are now closer to identifying the means of resolving the Guyana-Venezuela border controversy. Venezuela claims the mineral-rich Essequibo Region which is five-eighths of Guyana's territory. The dispute was referred to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for resolution and this was Cordovez second trip here within a year in this connection.

I now have a much more complete grasp of the Guyana position with regards to the controversy as well as the feelings and emotions of the people of Guyana and I will carry this feeling with me on my visit to Caracas where I will have similar discussions with government ministers there, he said. We will then be able to determine what is the mechanism, procedure, and instrument, to be adopted to resolve the controversy.

Cordovez said the U.S. secretary-general's role was to help Guyana and Venezuela identify and decide on a mutually acceptable formula which would be useful to both in resolving the problem. I think that in Guyana there is a definite feeling that there must be an honourable solution, and there is no doubt in my mind that this feeling is shared by the people of this country, he said. I am encouraged by the sincerity of the government and people of Guyana in seeking to have the issue resolved and this is a very important element in our efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement for peaceful solution to the problem.

Cordovez said his visit here had taken place against the background of a new improved relationship between Georgetown and Caracas. It is my hope that this new improved relationship between Guyana and Venezuela will continue and be strengthened, he said.

In Caracas, the UN envoy will meet senior government officials including President Jaime Lusinchi.

OFFICIALS, SURINAMERS DISCUSS RELATIONS, TIES

FL152122 Bridgetown CANA in English 2013 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 15, CANA -- A three-member government delegation from Suriname was holding talks here today with Guyana officials on improving relations and strengthening ties, an official said. A proposed ferry service between the two South American neighbours who have put their border dispute on ice was the major subject of discussion with a view to arriving at a decision shortly as to when to start the project.

The Suriname team is led by Soerjoe Singh, an official of the Public Works Ministry, while Dr Clarence James of the State Planning Secretariat is heading the Guyana delegation.

The talks were expected to centre on possible exports of rice, sugar, and other commodities from Guyana, at a time when local police and customs authorities are clamping down on illegal exports of sugar and rice, two main foreign exchange earners, across the Corentyne River to Suriname. Government says the country is losing millions of dollars as a result of inter-border smuggling.

BULGARIAN DELEGATION MEETS WITH MINISTERS

FL192118 Bridgetown CANA in English 1937 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 19, CANA -- A five-member team from Bulgaria is in Guyana for wide-ranging talks with senior ministers and officials of the government. The team, headed by Mikail Danov of the Ministry of Economic Co-operation in Bulgaria, is discussing co-operation with the Ministry of Energy, the Guyana Rice Board (GRB), the Guyana Liquor Corporation (GLC), and the Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco), a government spokesman said. Bulgaria has already agreed to provide Guyana with two 10 kilowatt radio transmitters and two 100-kilowatt transmitters. Guyana will pay for the transmitters with bauxite and the two 10-kilowatt transmitters are ready and are undergoing tests in preparation for shipment, the official said. The equipment will be used by the state-owned Guyana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) which has been experiencing a series of problems with the present aging transmitters. GBC operates two radio services. The GBC expects to service hinterland areas including the vast Essequibo region being claimed by Venezuela.

AIRLINE SATISFIED WITH LEASED SOVIET JET PLANE

FL161608 Bridgetown CANA in English 1420 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Goergetown, Guyana, March 16, CANA -- Guyana's state-owned national airline says it is satisfied with the performance of a Russian Tupolev Tu-154B passenger plane it leased this year from Romania and is looking forward to the arrival in September of its own Tu-154M aircraft. The Tupolev Tu-154B has moved 14,710 passengers for this year and the new baggage system employed on the North American routes has sorted out most of the problems that are common to the operation of this size aircraft, Public Relations Officer of the Guyana Airways Corporation (GAC) Vaughan Dash said. He said the new Tu-154M will fly non-stop to New York and will accommodate eight first class and 146 economy class passengers, and is also fitted with more economical engines, has more range, cargo carrying capacity, and a wide-bodied interior. Dash said that with the Soviet jetliner, GAC's punctuality has been 94 per cent and the reliability 100 per cent over 76 flights for 1985. The GAC, which flies to the United States and some Caribbean countries, mainly Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, has given no details of the cost of its new plane or how its purchase is being financed.

GIFT OF 50 NORTH KOREAN TRACTORS RECEIVED

FL192212 Bridgetown CANA in English 1746 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 19, CANA -- Fifty tractors from North Korea have been handed over to the Guyana Government. The machines are fully equipped with ploughs and harrows and represent part of a gift of 100 tractors which North Korea promised President Forbes Burnham when he visited that country in 1983, a government official said. The presentation of the tractors took place recently at a ceremony at the ambitious Mahaica Mahaicony Abary Agricultural Scheme, 38 miles east of Georgetown. The presentation demonstrates the close relationship that exists between our two countries, and the gift will enhance our efforts to increase agricultural development in Guyana, Prime Minister Desmond Hoyte said at the handing over ceremony.